

This Old House

MAY 2008

19
**SUPER-
SMART TOOLS**
for every
homeowner
P. 59

Patios, Decks & Porches

**35 pages of ideas for
designing and building
great outdoor spaces**

Plus:

Brick path how-to (P. 65)

Build a water feature (P. 51)

Small-kitchen remodel (P. 23)

Easy-care roses (P. 35)

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Most dogs leave hair. Mine picks it up.



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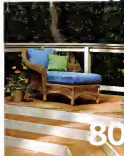
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Swing low or fly high—an easy weather-impregnable, our old-dog-eat-new design is just the ticket.



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Cover photography: John W. Gilling by Ron Korman



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House

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BIO-Technik	
Lebenswissenschaften	Angewandte Biologie
Chemie und Biochemie	Chemie und Biochemie
Genetik, Zellbiologie, Biochemie	Genetik, Zellbiologie
Medizin (Zellbiologie, Biochemie, Genetik)	Medizin (Zellbiologie, Biochemie, Genetik)
Pharmazie (Zellbiologie, Biochemie, Genetik)	Pharmazie (Zellbiologie, Biochemie, Genetik)
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1991-1992 1993-1994 1995-1996 1997-1998 1999-2000 2001-2002 2003-2004 2005-2006 2007-2008 2009-2010 2011-2012 2013-2014 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020 2021-2022 2023-2024 2025-2026 2027-2028 2029-2030 2031-2032 2033-2034 2035-2036 2037-2038 2039-2040 2041-2042 2043-2044 2045-2046 2047-2048 2049-2050 2051-2052 2053-2054 2055-2056 2057-2058 2059-2060 2061-2062 2063-2064 2065-2066 2067-2068 2069-2070 2071-2072 2073-2074 2075-2076 2077-2078 2079-2080 2081-2082 2083-2084 2085-2086 2087-2088 2089-2090 2091-2092 2093-2094 2095-2096 2097-2098 2099-2100 2101-2102 2103-2104 2105-2106 2107-2108 2109-2110 2111-2112 2113-2114 2115-2116 2117-2118 2119-2120 2121-2122 2123-2124 2125-2126 2127-2128 2129-2130 2131-2132 2133-2134 2135-2136 2137-2138 2139-2140 2141-2142 2143-2144 2145-2146 2147-2148 2149-2150 2151-2152 2153-2154 2155-2156 2157-2158 2159-2160 2161-2162 2163-2164 2165-2166 2167-2168 2169-2170 2171-2172 2173-2174 2175-2176 2177-2178 2179-2180 2181-2182 2183-2184 2185-2186 2187-2188 2189-2190 2191-2192 2193-2194 2195-2196 2197-2198 2199-2200 2201-2202 2203-2204 2205-2206 2207-2208 2209-2210 2211-2212 2213-2214 2215-2216 2217-2218 2219-2220 2221-2222 2223-2224 2225-2226 2227-2228 2229-2230 2231-2232 2233-2234 2235-2236 2237-2238 2239-2240 2241-2242 2243-2244 2245-2246 2247-2248 2249-2250 2251-2252 2253-2254 2255-2256 2257-2258 2259-2260 2261-2262 2263-2264 2265-2266 2267-2268 2269-2270 2271-2272 2273-2274 2275-2276 2277-2278 2279-2280 2281-2282 2283-2284 2285-2286 2287-2288 2289-2290 2291-2292 2293-2294 2295-2296 2297-2298 2299-2300 2301-2302 2303-2304 2305-2306 2307-2308 2309-2310 2311-2312 2313-2314 2315-2316 2317-2318 2319-2320 2321-2322 2323-2324 2325-2326 2327-2328 2329-2330 2331-2332 2333-2334 2335-2336 2337-2338 2339-2340 2341-2342 2343-2344 2345-2346 2347-2348 2349-2350 2351-2352 2353-2354 2355-2356 2357-2358 2359-2360 2361-2362 2363-2364 2365-2366 2367-2368 2369-2370 2371-2372 2373-2374 2375-2376 2377-2378 2379-2380 2381-2382 2383-2384 2385-2386 2387-2388 2389-2390 2391-2392 2393-2394 2395-2396 2397-2398 2399-2400 2401-2402 2403-2404 2405-2406 2407-2408 2409-2410 2411-2412 2413-2414 2415-2416 2417-2418 2419-2420 2421-2422 2423-2424 2425-2426 2427-2428 2429-2430 2431-2432 2433-2434 2435-2436 2437-2438 2439-2440 2441-2442 2443-2444 2445-2446 2447-2448 2449-2450 2451-2452 2453-2454 2455-2456 2457-2458 2459-2460 2461-2462 2463-2464 2465-2466 2467-2468 2469-2470 2471-2472 2473-2474 2475-2476 2477-2478 2479-2480 2481-2482 2483-2484 2485-2486 2487-2488 2489-2490 2491-2492 2493-2494 2495-2496 2497-2498 2499-2500 2501-2502 2503-2504 2505-2506 2507-2508 2509-2510 2511-2512 2513-2514 2515-2516 2517-2518 2519-2520 2521-2522 2523-2524 2525-2526 2527-2528 2529-2530 2531-2532 2533-2534 2535-2536 2537-2538 2539-2540 2541-2542 2543-2544 2545-2546 2547-2548 2549-2550 2551-2552 2553-2554 2555-2556 2557-2558 2559-2560 2561-2562 2563-2564 2565-2566 2567-2568 2569-2570 2571-2572 2573-257

Country	Year	Population (millions)	GDP (billion USD)	Life expectancy (years)	Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)
USA	2000	280	10,000	77	12
China	2000	1,200	10,000	72	30
India	2000	1,000	1,000	65	100
Japan	2000	125	5,000	82	10
Germany	2000	82	3,000	78	10
France	2000	63	2,500	79	10
UK	2000	59	2,000	78	10
Italy	2000	59	2,000	79	10
Spain	2000	44	1,500	81	10
Sweden	2000	9	300	81	10
Norway	2000	4	100	81	10
Denmark	2000	5	100	80	10
Finland	2000	5	100	80	10
South Korea	2000	45	1,000	75	10
Singapore	2000	3	100	75	10
Malaysia	2000	22	100	73	10
Thailand	2000	61	100	71	10
Vietnam	2000	75	100	70	10
Philippines	2000	80	100	69	10
Indonesia	2000	200	100	68	10
Brazil	2000	160	100	67	10
Mexico	2000	100	100	66	10
Argentina	2000	38	100	65	10
Colombia	2000	40	100	64	10
Venezuela	2000	26	100	63	10
Ecuador	2000	12	100	62	10
Peru	2000	26	100	61	10
Bolivia	2000	9	100	60	10
Paraguay	2000	6	100	59	10
Uruguay	2000	3	100	58	10
Chile	2000	16	100	57	10
Egypt	2000	75	100	56	10
Saudi Arabia	2000	22	100	55	10
Qatar	2000	2	100	54	10
UAE	2000	2	100	53	10
Oman	2000	3	100	52	10
Yemen	2000	22	100	51	10
Sudan	2000	38	100	50	10
Ethiopia	2000	75	100	49	10
Kenya	2000	30	100	48	10
Tanzania	2000	38	100	47	10
Uganda	2000	22	100	46	10
Rwanda	2000	8	100	45	10
Burundi	2000	7	100	44	10
DRC	2000	55	100	43	10
Congo	2000	3	100	42	10
Angola	2000	15	100	41	10
Mozambique	2000	20	100	40	10
Malawi	2000	18	100	39	10
Zambia	2000	7	100	38	10
Botswana	2000	2	100	37	10
South Africa	2000	42	100	36	10
Nigeria	2000	120	100	35	10
Ghana	2000	18	100	34	10
Senegal	2000	10	100	33	10
Gambia	2000	2	100	32	10
Sierra Leone	2000	5	100	31	10
Liberia	2000	3	100	30	10
Ivory Coast	2000	18	100	29	10
Upper Volta	2000	12	100	28	10
Benin	2000	10	100	27	10
Niger	2000	12	100	26	10
Chad	2000	10	100	25	10
Sudan	2000	38	100	24	10
Ethiopia	2000	75	100	23	10
Kenya	2000	30	100	22	10
Tanzania	2000	38	100	21	10
Uganda	2000	22	100	20	10
Rwanda	2000	8	100	19	10
Burundi					

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF DAYS
1. Preparation of the project	10
2. Design of the project	10
3. Construction of the project	10
4. Testing of the project	10
5. Documentation of the project	10
6. Presentation of the project	10
7. Evaluation of the project	10
8. Final report	10
9. Total	90

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GENERAL MANAGER Joseph L. Bonaventura
VICE PRESIDENTS
 OPERATIONS & MARKETING Mike "Smash" Heston
 FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATION Ray G. Gorman
MANUFACTURING MANAGER
 JAMES J. GORMAN
 JAMES J. GORMAN, JR.

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House

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1

make
Mom
happy

Install New Shelves

Wang Wei College Fund

None/Lip/Water 54

Spinning Disk

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a great
backyard

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letter FROM THIS OLD HOUSE

The Joys of Not Working

WHEN YOU LIVE IN A PLACE so warm that it pulls 30,000 people to each square mile, you take your fresh air pleasure wherever you find it. And for me, that pleasure is relaxing in what you might call an outdoor room, on a deck of my own design inside a wall of shaggy bark beneath a vaulting ceiling of olivaceous green leaves.

Nice, isn't it? The deck and the tree you see me with over there? Sure are, but be honest now. Which experience you want? I made the first one, of course. Mother Nature did the second. And given the differing levels of experience between the two of us, I'm pretty happy with my work. Granted, the deck isn't quite done; it still needs a railing and a couple other finishing touches. But as the saying goes, you can't have Mother Nature, and I don't like carving any one for myself.

That might have something to do with the sexual pleasure of being outdoors. When I get home from work, I do not like to slip out to the deck, stare the rufous-throated Towhees perched, relax in the old-fashionedly hot air and make some ice in a still cooled (just one, of course).

The weekend usually takes me out of the DIY mood for the rest of the evening. Some thing on the weekend, but I usually start earlier than that, with brunch—a nice legal with whiskey is pretty much guaranteed to dissuade me from any home improving and send me to the glider for a long nap, even without the hood.

Beginning to get the picture? Maybe you've got a similar setup yourself. If so, I'll check the mail for an answer. If not, well, I'd recommend spending time with the name of *This Old House*. It's packed full of stuff for creating your own outdoor pleasure palace. There's a piece on the best all-weather dining furniture (p. 96), a story on deck design (p. 98), and, my favorite, a feature called "Rooms With a View" (p. 72) about an amazing home with an old greenhouse and barn foundation, as well as a number of other cool spaces. You may never own such a place yourself (and I certainly won't), but it's filled with ideas even the most modestly landed can adapt for themselves.

And now I pretty much get to finishing my deck. Then again, Mother Nature has been perfecting her tree for decades, so who am I to rush?

Sam Quicno

SCOTT CHILDS/ARND BRONKHORST



**I made the deck, Mother Nature
made the tree. And given
our differing levels of experience,
I'm pretty happy with my work.**

mail

Planning Ahead

One helpful tip I would add to your article on epoxy coating a floor (Step-by-Step, March) is to divide up the area to be covered into workable segments and then measure out the color flakes into as many small cups as there are floor segments. You will avoid the predicament of having one segment left to paint and no more chips. Also, think ahead: If you have epoxy remaining when you finish the garage floor, where else could it be useful? My basement laundry room received my extra. Just remember that the additional room must be prepared beforehand as well.

DALE W. RUTGER, BEDFORD, PA.

Pining for Paper

I just received the March issue of your wonderful magazine, and I am in love with the wallpaper on p. 45 ("Making the Case for Felines"). Can you let me know where to purchase it?

UNDAULY BY MY MAIL

The Editors reply: Unfortunately the paper you love is out of stock and not for sale. Created exclusively for New York City's Morris Animal Institute by Scatena Interiors, it was utilized when the drying room was refurbished in 2002. For a similar look, consider Scatena Interiors' "Leaf & Spring" (WPA1526). Available through professional designers only.

Toolbox for Tots

My husband and I out of all of the pieces for your January/February Family Project ("Building a Toolbox") just sent them to our son and 6-year-old granddaughter to assemble together. As we'd given them a set of real tools for Christmas, this seemed like a perfect follow-up gift. Here are Dan and Jessica enjoying some father-daughter fun time. Thanks for the wonderful idea.

SUSAN MURPHY, ST. CHARLES, IL



Preparing for the Future

I am a 12-year-old boy from Ohio who is working on a robot. I am currently working on my science project. I find you magazine very helpful in my school projects. Keep up the good work.

DEJUAN MANA, TROOP 1, CHARLOTTE, NC

Up or Down?

Beaufort Perennials ("Barn") seems to offer perfect solutions for several poorly drained areas on my property. The suggestions are not only well-timed but beautiful. One question: You mention the addition of perlite to the soil. Should it be placed with the holes on the bottom or the top?

ROSEMARIE HARRINGTON, LOS ANGELES, CA

Rodenticides and Pets

As a veterinarian, I was concerned by your statement that a shot of vitamin K₁ will cure a pet that has accidentally ingested an anticoagulant-based rodenticide ("Rat Pack, March). Toxic events are never that simple. In the best case, the owner sees the pet eat the poison and brings the animal to us immediately so that we can induce vomiting and administer activated charcoal to decrease absorption of the toxin. But pets frequently consume rodenticide when the owner is unaware. Dogs find it particularly tasty and are not deterred by bitter additives such as Miltex. They can develop life-threatening hemorrhage unless they receive antivenom of vitamin K₁ within 24 hours, and additional doses are generally given for 16 to 32 days while the animal is maintained. Treatment should never be considered a reservation after the owner has kept his pet safely away from the toxin.

KATHLEEN E. JACK, DVM, CHARLOTTE, NC



The Editors reply: Typically the perforated pipe used in length of 1/2-inch-diameter PVC pipe with evenly spaced holes along one side. As with drizzle of rain, if you're trying to drain a lot of water away from a hole, position the holes at an angle with the pipe at a downward angle. If you want water entering the pipe to drain as it flows, say runoff from a downspout on its way to a dry well, position the holes facing down to provide drainage.

Green Is Good

I disagree with the letter that criticized you for being obviously green (Jedi, March). We have a lot of catching up to do in this country. Keep up the good green work!

CHRISTOPHER M. HOUTER, NY

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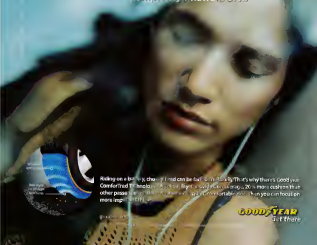


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completely unaware of it.



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GOODYEAR
Go there

643

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The Value
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around the HOUSE

EDITED BY DEBBIE BODEN

HIT THE DECK

Try a colorful new stain to brighten your backyard hangout.

Sure, there are a few stains out there for pressure-treated wood, but the color palette—browns and greys—hasn't exactly offered homeowners a way to stand out from the crowd. Olympic is new. Maximum-deck and fence stains, which come in 250 solid and semitransparent shades, present a lot more options for putting a unique stamp on your outdoor space. Ultraviolet inhibitors keep the colors from fading, and the company says the stains are tough enough to resist water damage for at least five years (eight years for the solid colors). Plus, they require no priming, go on as easy as latex paint, and clean up with soap and water. With this many colors to choose from, the hardest part of staining your deck might be picking just one. —ALAN SAWYER

1. Dyer Stone 2. Pearl 3. Amethyst
 4. Citrus Ice 5. Dune 6. Italy
 7. Espresso 8. Island
 9. Sage 10. Mountain Spring 11. 250
 12. 250

WORKING WITH PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER



• You can stain or seal pressure-treated wood, but just pressure-treated wood is often cleaner. Sometimes let it dry.



• When PT lumber is dry to the touch, it should be ready to stain. To ensure the moisture content is low (less than 20 percent), test a small area to make sure the stain penetrates before you begin.



• If you're replacing old boards with new PT lumber, use airtight sealant on the joints to prevent moisture from seeping in. The wood preservative won't protect them.



YOUR MONEY

Buying a Foreclosure? Get It Inspected First

As the mortgage crisis causes the number of foreclosures on the market to climb, you may be tempted to snag a deal without knowing that you are out of your price range without taking a hard look at the shape it's in. But having a home professionally inspected is more important if it is a foreclosure. The reason is simple: Shrewd homebuyers often let maintenance and required paperwork slide.

In many states, the seller must fill out a disclosure statement listing known problems that would affect the sale. Inspecting, or the possibility of the home, such as a roof leak or serious foundation damage. "But nobody at the bank ever lived in the house," says Greg Farneth, a home inspector based in California. "So the disclosure paperwork I've seen on foreclosures is pretty much blank."

The very best inspection report provided by the lender. Sometimes a warranty "forced from the lender" is used to identify certain lines that might save the sale of a house. But you want a standard inspection, not a subsidy.

Though it may seem silly, inspect the house from \$500 to \$1,000. The National Society of Home Inspectors (nsihq.org) will help you find a qualified pro in your area, and it's a good idea to show them where you're doing the inspection. You know the lender would never want to sell the house's maintenance value to a lender.

A CLEANER WAY TO 'CUE

It's charcoal, or better said, to prepare a piece of portable fuel, which is just a little longer than a piece of wood. It's a piece of wood that's been treated with a special charcoal-like charcoal to make it a perfectly clean fuel. The fuel, called EcoFuel, comes in a little box that you can use to cook on. It's a little box that you can use to cook on. It's a little box that you can use to cook on. It's a little box that you can use to cook on.



10 IDEAS

PLASTIC WRAP

Here's how to use plastic wrap in a handy way: outside the kitchen too. —JENNIFER HANSON

1. PROTECT PLANTS AND FURNITURE Cover potted plants, potted plants, or potted plants with a layer of plastic wrap. It's a handy way to protect plants and furniture from the sun's rays. It's a handy way to protect plants and furniture from the sun's rays.

2. KEEP STAINS IN CHECK When packing for a move, wrap plastic wrap around the sides of the furniture and the sides of the furniture. It's a handy way to keep the furniture from getting stained.

3. EASY TO CLEAN When packing for a move, wrap plastic wrap around the sides of the furniture and the sides of the furniture. It's a handy way to keep the furniture from getting stained.

4. EASY TO CLEAN When packing for a move, wrap plastic wrap around the sides of the furniture and the sides of the furniture. It's a handy way to keep the furniture from getting stained.

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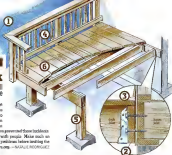
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SAFE HOUSE

Deck Check

Our six-point inspection plan will help you spot signs of trouble

May is National Deck Safety Month, and with hot summer just around the corner, now's the time to take a closer look at the place where you'll host all your warm-weather gatherings. According to the North American Deck and Railing Association, there's been an increase in the number of decks that have collapsed, fallen apart, or otherwise failed. In most cases, simple upgrades could have prevented those accidents, which tend to happen (no surprise) when decks are packed with people. Make such an upgrade or several others—it takes a few minutes—and be very cautious before loading the gang zone. For more information on deck safety, check out decking.com. —NATALIE ROBINETTE



WHAT TO DO

- 1. STAIRS
- 2. JOISTS
- 3. DECKING
- 4. RAILINGS
- 5. POSTS
- 6. BEAMS

Check for proper stair stringer support and make sure the top of the stringer is secured to the deck frame. If you can't see the stringer, it's not secure. If you can't see the stringer, it's not secure. If you can't see the stringer, it's not secure.

Thoroughly inspect the deck's joists. Make sure they're spaced at 16 inches on center, or closer. Check for rot and damage. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them.

Check the railing system. Make sure the railing is secure and that the balusters are properly spaced. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them.

Check the deck's posts. Make sure they're spaced at 6 feet on center, or closer. Check for rot and damage. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them.

Check the deck's beams. Make sure they're spaced at 16 inches on center, or closer. Check for rot and damage. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them.

Check the deck's railing. Make sure it's secure and that the balusters are properly spaced. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them. If you find any, replace them.



This 200-hour pro gets extra training from the International Decking Association. He knows his way around a deck. He knows his way around a deck. He knows his way around a deck.

GOOD IDEA!

A Better Way to Measure

"I was installing hooks to hang Roman shades. Rather than making the spacing of the eyebolts off the yardstick, I covered it with masking tape and marked the positions on the tape with a pencil. Then I just transferred the pencil marks to the wall. That helped me place the hooks accurately and save my eyesight at the same time!" —JOHN S. BOWEN, NJ



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KITCHEN DESIGN



BEFORE The kitchen couldn't keep owners' needs out of the way as they worked on the house. The old upper cabinets made the space feel cramped. **AFTER** Two straight countertops offer more useful workspace. Open shelving makes the narrow galley appear more spacious.

October/June
Furnishings
Hickory
Hickory

Problem: The 1960s U-shape layout was inefficient—and out of place in the 1740s home.

Solution: Reconfigure it as a galley, move doorways, and add a period look. Here's how >>

SOMETIMES THE SIMPLEST SOLUTION IS ALSO THE BEST, especially when righting past renovation wrongs. So thought Ross and Barbara Stone when seeking the advice of architect Kurt Sutherland in solving the layout and traffic-flow problems of their 1745 Dutch Colonial's kitchen in Accord, New York. "The kitchen was in a small, closed-off addition that was put on 100 years after the house was built, and it never quite fit us," says Sutherland. "To make matters worse, it was configured in the 1960s as a U-shape with heavy bead cabinetry and ornate, laminate counters. That made the space feel crowded, and it looked dated by today's standards—new big, negative for a couple whose social lives involve around cooking for and entertaining friends (Ross is the chef, Barbara's the bartender)."

The architect's plan was straightforward: Run outside the lines of the "U" to create an efficient galley with prep, cooking, and cleanup stations arranged along new walls instead of doors. "The right corners at our old kitchen made it hard to walk in," says Ross. "The new parallel counter tops are much more functional." By relocating the back door and enlarging the passageway into the adjoining living space to the roofline up, Sutherland was also able to open up the kitchen to both indoors and out, while maximizing foot traffic away from the main work zone. After more than 100 years, period details such as painted cabinets, soapstone counters, and an open-flame stove stand the space with the rest of the 17th-century farmhouse.

BY PERRELLA WOOD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
WENDELL T. WISSE



"Furniturelike legs on the base cabinets and wide beadboard on the walls unite the new space with the rest of the old house." —BINA STONE, HOMEOWNER

The Details

» Vintage-looking cabinets conceal state-of-the-art storage features

- 1. THE PANTRY BUILDING** has 2½ feet deep rather than the usual 24 inches, creating a built-in look with the standard depth of the rest of the kitchen and providing extra storage space.
- 2. CABINET DIVIDERS** keep items in bins and baskets steady in order. The full cabinet divider above means no more leaning and rooting around in a dark base cabinet for the right pot lid.
- 3. A SLIDE-OUT STORAGE** cube holds cookbooks in the front and a built-in spice rack in the rear. A small emergency in the cubby below usually hidden behind the cabinet's "lip" doors, which open out into the room and then slide back neatly into recesses along the sides.
- 4. MAPLE CABINET DOORS** with bead and batten detail on the inside conceal occasional use serving pieces and wine glasses. Only use mugs, plates, and bowls are stacked in spin-in shelves on either side of the sink.
- 5. A BROWN BUCKSTONE PATIO** tucked out with a zero-style stainless-steel and table seating, lies just beyond the kitchen's new French doors. Unlike standard white inlets, oiled bronze lever handles on the doors can be opened with the downward push of a finger when hands are full of dishes.

Courtesy of the Custom Kitchen by the Furniture Store. 2610000000 Jean Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53210-1000. French doors, left; Door Hardware, Milwaukee/2000 Gold, right.

perfect
look

See how to achieve
this look at
BinaStone.com
/kitchen

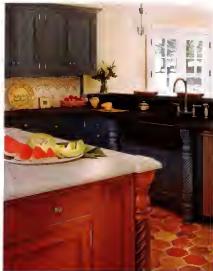


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Entry Lights

So sconces can brighten your way and make your house's architecture shine

BY KARELIE BOONHUIS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDSEY FLANNERY

YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE MUCH THOUGHT TO your outside lighting. Sure, those fixtures mounted on the house let you find your way inside without too much fumbling with the keys and help extend porch parties well into the summer night. But exterior lights can also make or break the appearance of a facade, so it's worth the effort to choose wisely. For example, lighting designers love surface-bugging sconces for their ability to "grow" illumination into architectural details or across walls and those directional mini-work lights are handy, too, for the way they cast light on your floor steps. On the following pages, we've assembled a collection of sconces—from traditional to totally original and Craftsman-style lanterns to space-age glowing orbs—that are sure to be noticed.



1

2

3 | CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMAN

Agripa's metal and agate lamp glows from an iron pedestal. Antique finish. Craftsman lantern, \$276. studiotheorchard.com

2 | ARTISAN FORMS

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1 | FOCUS LIGHT

Outline the entry to your home at the store with a hand-forged dark light. The dramatically lit outdoor sconce adds to a sense of the porch will stand up to the harshness of two air \$350. traylighting.com

4 | GLOBE LAMP

With its classic styling, this modern light is an architectural feature that looks at home in a modern or traditional home. Square globe glass adds a subtle but eye-catching light. \$289. traylighting.com

5 | GLOBE LIGHT

A classic globe light is an easy choice for outdoor lighting. This globe light is made of a glass globe with a metal frame. \$275. traylighting.com

6 | FOCUS LIGHT

Made of rugged steel and glass, this spotlight fixture has a modern glass dome that adds glow without overpowering. The light is made of a glass globe with a metal frame. \$275. traylighting.com

7 | FOCUS LIGHT

This spotlight is not just a light, it's a work of art. With its classic styling, this modern light is an architectural feature that looks at home in a modern or traditional home. Square globe glass adds a subtle but eye-catching light. \$289. traylighting.com

8 | GLOBE LAMP

You don't have to sacrifice style for efficiency. This modern light is made of a glass globe with a metal frame. \$275. traylighting.com

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9 | **WISCONSIN-STYLE**

Wish-creating outdoor landscape light in eye-catching style. The curved body plus its one-inch diameter, play on attached surface. Optional amber or blue glass is available for a bit of color. \$363. brylcre.com

10 | **DAVID LANTERN**

The simple, timeless look of a copper light makes it versatile enough to work on a rustic cottage or a classic Colonial. This one is available with incandescent or fluorescent bulb options. \$452. wainwrightlighting.com

11 | **PLANTATION LIGHT**

Great garden with the traditional look of incandescent with its tiered, hand-blown glass and inside metal detailing. This bronze-finished pleated metal dome, great for a porch, entry or stone pillar. \$432. brylcre.com

12 | **CHANDLER PILLAR**

Given that's textured to look like parchment and a deep bronze patina, it's the ideal geometry of a lantern-style light. \$467. brylcre.com

13 | **REDFORD**

Add a modern touch to any outdoor wall with this elegant, etched glass dome illuminated by this shape of metal. \$325. brylcre.com

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The award is given for new or significantly revamped alternative fuel-powered vehicles.

"This is a milestone in many respects," said Green Car Journal editor Ron Cogan. "People don't think 'new' when SUVs are concerned."

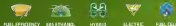
The 2008 Chevy Tahoe Hybrid[™] has the best fuel economy in its class. And new technology the Tahoe Hybrid is competitive with much smaller vehicles. While driving in the city, Tahoe Hybrid 2WD achieves the same city fuel economy as a four-cylinder Toyota Camry.



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CHEVROLET BUICK PONTIAC GMC SATURN HUMMER CADILLAC

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Easy-Care Roses

>> Far from finicky, many shrub-type roses bloom all summer long with very little fuss. Here are some top choices for flower borders, hedges, and containers

BY LANCE WILHELM PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD FLEISCH

MAYBE YOU THINK YOU KNOW ROSES—those long, woody, dull-pinked beauties that need a lot of coddling to keep discontent bay. Well, it's time to rethink the rose's high-maintenance reputation. In the last 10 years or so, the so-called "hybrid tea" roses have been giving way to tough, easy-to-grow, repeat-flowering, shrub-type roses that can play a versatile role in the landscape. These new roses—along with some old garden favorites—are taking their rightful place in flower borders and containers, in hedges, and even in ground covers. And they are making the most of their moment in the sun, providing the longer season of color of any flowering shrub you can grow.

MAJOR FLOWERS, MINIMAL FUSS
Known as landscape roses, these plants are "free blooming," meaning that with proper care, they flower continuously from spring to fall. There will be some downtime when the plant has few or no blooms, but it won't last long. These roses are also vigorous and easy to care for, with excellent disease resistance. Most yield cuttings without complaint, though landscape roses generally bear flowers in large clusters and have fewer petals than hybrid teas.

Disease resistance is probably the most important criterion for landscape roses. The "big three" diseases—black spot, rust, and powdery mildew—can devastate roses, debilitating and defaming them. The frequency and severity of rose diseases vary from region to region and season to season, depending on the climate and the weather. Black spot, the scourge of many gardeners in the eastern U.S., thrives in hot, humid, rainy weather. Powdery mildew likes the warm days and cool, humid nights common in spring and fall season long.

COLORFUL COMPANION: A red flower provides a vibrant backdrop and a lovely contrast for a bushy planting of red roses. Bright pink, hot pink, and purple varieties mix

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praline
blossoms

Landscaping
Landscape Architect
Landscape Designer
Landscape Contractor



from my spatial sense. I don't like it mild and sweet. Double roses are also relative. Under ideal conditions even the most resistant varieties may experience some disease. But as a whole, landscape roses share with little or no pretensions or excessive maintenance.

ROSE BETS COAST TO COAST

Though some old roses have many of the characteristics mentioned above, it's mostly modern roses (defined as those introduced after 1907) that can truly provide numerous blooms with a minimum of care. Following are the three basic categories of landscape roses, with suggested varieties that have proven reliable across the United States. Continue your research on the Web and in rose catalogs or books to find additional information on a variety's size, shape, proper spacing, and exact flower color and character. Keep in mind that plant size will vary depending on your climate. Its size with cold winters and long growing seasons, roses often grow much larger than the size given in catalogs. Roses can be notoriously colorful, too, so choose carefully to make sure the ones you select blend well with

the overall colors of your house and landscape (for gardeners, check out *landscape.com*).

FRONT YARD. This is a small class of roses that groups together plants requiring considerably more and more shade. These roses can be used as informal hedges and work well in flower borders. Many are sold as part of a limited series of varieties, differing in flower color and sometimes plant habit. At the head of this bunch are the Knock Out roses, which in a matter of just a few years have become some of the most popular roses grown. Other excellent series include Carolina and Flower Carpet roses. Midland roses also include many excellent shrub roses, but most are quite expensive and best for large areas where they can spread. The exception, arguably, is the very hardy California rose, which may hardly qualify as such in the back yard, the Explorer series (named after famous explorers), and the Mermaid (see Portland) series, many of which have survived temperatures below minus 40 degrees F.

Among individual varieties, look for the exceptional 'Home Run' (red) and 'Sally Holmes' (white). Also consider 'Belinda's Dream' (pink), one of the best roses to receive Times Midland University's "Everbloom" award.



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FLORIDA ROSE

FLORIDA ROSE

designer for its excellent disease resistance (more information is available at northdawn.com).

POLYANTHUS AND FLORIBUNDA These upright to rounded plants are the most prolific bloomers in the rose family. *Polyanthas* are old-fashioned varieties (only a few are still widely grown) that reach 2 to 3 feet tall with large clusters of tiny, small, 4- to 6-petaled flowers. *Floribundas* are a modern cross of these with large-flowering hybrid teas. The resulting rose plants generally grow 3 to 5 feet high with large clusters of bigger blooms. Hardiness varies, but most need protection of temperatures fall below 10 degrees F. Excellent varieties include 'Easy Prince' (pink), 'Class Act' (white), 'Iceberg' (white), 'Easy Going' (golden yellow), 'Vancouver' (red), 'Love Easy' (apricot-orange), 'Playboy' (orange, white, or yellow), 'Flagship' (pink), 'Sensational' (orange-red), 'Vancouver' (yellow), and 'The Easy' (light pink).

GRANDIFLORA These are low-growing, spreading roses, many of which are quite vigorous and best placed in large areas. More restrained types for smaller areas include 'Red Cascade' and the Blended series from Jackson & Perkins. Flower Carpet roses can also be used in ground covers. Groundcover roses are best placed in hard-to-reach areas in landscape fabric that is then covered



LANDSCAPE ROSE



LANDSCAPE ROSE

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with organic mulch to protect roots. They grow from 2 to 5 feet high, depending on the variety. Hardiness varies.

A LITTLE CARE AND FEEDING

Roses are called "easy care" and some tend to be. All roses grow best with 6 to 8 hours of full sun. Less than that and you'll have fewer flowers, leggy plants, and more disease. While some roses are listed as shade tolerant, few will be worth growing with less than 4 hours of direct sun. Varieties that perform best with less sun are usually those with fewer petals, such as the 'Iceberg' floribunda and the 'Carefree Wonder' shrub rose.

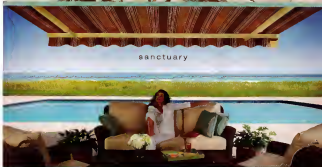
Roses also need one or two deep waterings a week during warm, dry weather. Deep irrigation is ideal because it keeps the foliage dry, discouraging disease. To keep them blooming, most roses should be fed every four to six weeks with a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Since most landscape roses are hardy, they don't require winter protection. In the coldest areas, choose hardy roses grown on their own roots (not budded on another rose stock). These roses also don't need insect spraying. Simply cutting back plants by half to one-third in late winter and thinning crowded canes will keep them compact and under control. Then you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the colorful summer show. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 101

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ON THE JOB



When flood cleanup technician Dan DiPrima saw the basement, he had one word: "Eeeew."



Water, Water Everywhere

» When the basement floods, here's how to beat back the tide

BY ARIANNE COHEN ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN ORSTED

IF YOUR FLOODED BASEMENT IS THOUGHT just was all the water's gone—getting rid of the mucked-up rooms and preserving what remains are no simple tasks. One man learned the hard way when a river near his home bursted its banks. Luckily, his cleanup contractor knew all the right fixes.

THE CLIENT Gary Pink, a deputy sheriff, who lives with his 3-year-old daughter in a two-bedroom ranch house in Findlay, Ohio.

THE DRSS Unsettling conditions in his house. Pink awoke at 3 A.M. one morning to clanking thunder and streams of water from the overflowing Maumee River pouring into his basement. Pink, who lives just two inches of a mile from the river, was somewhat prepared—he revved up two submersible water pumps and fearfully kept the flood at bay for a day. "The moment of no return came the next evening, when the pumps stopped running for a moment," he says. "Instantly, water filled the basement faster than I could keep up." Just before the water reached the water high-dielectric outlets, Pink decided to evacuate. He shut off the electricity, backed out some phones and accessories, and left with his



The Bill

Flood Cleanup

Floor and wall installation (at \$1.25 per square foot): \$1,570
 Trash removal: \$500
 Dehumidifiers and fans: \$1,250
 Rigger treatments: \$950
Total: \$4,270
 Follow-up work:
 Duct cleaning: \$225
 Additional cleanup (dehumidifier and vacuum): \$275
 Equipment refurbishment and replacement: \$30,805
Total: \$31,365
Grand total: \$35,905

daughter is now, entering periodically over the next couple of days as the floodwater receded to rescue more of his possessions.

THE PRO TIP In Pink called Don DePoma, a local fellow worker for Flood Control Inc. When DePoma saw the basement, he had one word: "Brow." There was clearly standing water, plus lots of mud and muck from the river. "We wanted to get rid of the mud as quickly as possible, because mold spores appear in 24 to 48 hours after a flood," he says. "Then we'll assess."

For 4 hours, DePoma used truck-mounted pumps to shut water through hoses into the street. Screen mesh shovels cut the sludge, lugged out the lightweight wooden partition walls in the basement, and carried out the losses: a washing machine, dryer, furnace, and electrical box, along with furniture and miscellaneous. "Unfortunately, when floods come from water that's been outside, the water is contaminated and it's hard to save any walls, carpets, or contents," says DePoma.

Job done! Only if Pink wanted a house full of bacteria and mold. DePoma rolled in a fog machine that sprayed an anti-fungal, antibacterial mist into the basement, where it treated the walls and floors to the same house germination. Then he looked up a machine used industrial power washer to clean the basement. "One hose sprays hot water at up to 200 degrees, and

another hose extracts the water we're spraying so you don't make another flood." Pink and his daughter stayed elsewhere while DePoma and his crew worked.

With the basement now drenched but clean, DePoma set up two industrial dehumidifiers and seven commercial oscillating fans, some of those agencies, and left for a few days. When he returned, the basement was bones and dry. DePoma included one more round of fogging for good measure.

THE AFTERMATH DePoma was the best part of Pink's ordeal. "Don came within 45 minutes of my call and cleaned up what had been a disaster area," says Pink. DePoma suggested the new moves, too: being as electricians, a furnace installer, and, most important, a duct cleaner. Mold spores can still live in ducts even if fogging treatments are successful, DePoma explains.

Fortunately, Pink had flood and basement's insurance that covered the structure and contents of his house; he received \$15,000 toward the cost of repairs. When he spoke to him a few months after the flood, he was replacing his basement windows and fixing the back entryway by himself, because his insurance didn't include labor costs. ■



Questions to Ask Your Flood-Control Specialist

I have a pump. Why bother hiring you? A flood-control contractor will pump your stuff and protect your house's structure and framing. "We dry out the entire structure not just the basement," says DePoma. "Usually people extract all the water and a week later they find mold throughout the house. If we get them within 24 hours, we're able to save a lot of walls and floors."

When the water's pouring in, what should I do? Start pumping it out, but if the water reaches your electrical outlets, turn off the basement electricity and plug in the pump elsewhere, says DePoma. "Not only can you get electrocuted if you don't, but as I have to send for the electric company to shut off the power before we can start cleaning up."

I have mold in those walls—is it the mold-killing treatment, too? Reputable contractors provide a mold-killing treatment. "We gave out a pamphlet that shows it is a nontoxic product," says DePoma.

Any tip to prevent Lake Basement? "I always recommend a sump pump," says DePoma. And if possible, have French drains installed, which are basement pipes that go underground all the way out to the street, taking water away from the house.

Where should I store things I want to save? Avoid the two places prone to floods and leaks—the attic and the basement if you must use the basement—put boxes on cedar blocks or high shelves," says DePoma. Pink puts in a place for lightly packed small boxes: "You put years of memories in a 42-gallon tub, and try to lift it in 3 feet of water—it's gonna be difficult."

as
gassy
clouds

He got an
awesome
dry
house
after the flood.

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SALVAGE



Victorian Garden Urns

» Fill an old cast-iron container with flowers to brighten a front entry, top it with glass for a patio table, or fit it with a bubbler for a water feature

BY AMY B. BISHOP PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA PAUL



BACK IN THE DAY—way back, in Victorian times—having iron in your garden was a status symbol. Not just some old chunk of ore, but an ornate cast-iron urn, the kind you'd imagine overflowing with rose plants at Versailles.

You see, in the second half of the 19th century, besides covering practically every indoor surface with velvet, lace, or busy wallpaper, the Victorians gussied up their outdoor spaces, too. "It was a 'touch of more' atmosphere," says Barbara Isasi, owner of Barbara Isasi Garden Antiques in Katonah, New York. "Decorating your small garden with iron filled urns was one of those things that said you had the money to afford indulgences." The trend was led by America's emerging middle class, which could afford to devote land to beds full of vibrant annuals and ornate, winding paths, rather than lawn crops.

Early cast-iron urns, which date to about 1830, were modeled after ancient Greek and Roman sculptures, with fluted, columnlike sides, scalloped corners around the rim, and busy pedestal bases reminiscent of a sturdy foundation. Fluted columns took the form of acorns, aspens, or stylized fluted leaves. By 1890, urns were more fanciful, with the forms of Rococo ornate furniture—chaises, shells, and flowers—that showcased fashionable 19th-century French interiors.

Major manufacturers of the time, including J. & Morten Works in New York and Wood & Peck in Pennsylvania, let you create your own design, offering through mail-order catalogs a wide selection of urns that could be customized by wrapping out different bowls, bases, and handles, Isasi says. "You could also choose among leaves,

Though different in size and style, both these urns at Demosilco Depot in New York City are examples of the company items, which survive. They are shaped like apple-throne beds.



The design of this elaborate 19th-century urn at Devonshire Depot, with its shallow wide bowl, is called *balbo*, which translates for "owl."

green, brown, and black glazes.

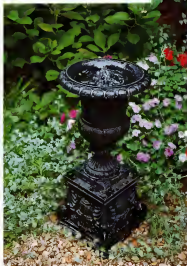
After a few years outside, cast-iron urns require a new coat of paint to prevent rust. So when purchasing a vintage urn at a salvage yard or garden center shop today, it's best just to find a well-proportioned one in a style you like. Don't even attempt to remove the original finish, because that top layer of flaky paint, there will be more, many more. "All I try to do is maintain the finish," says Lutz, who knows old shops with a wire brush and then applies a fresh coat of paint. "If you sandblast it, you lose that wonderful mottled surface, and then that lovely old piece will look like a reproduction," she adds.

Prices for garden urns vary widely, from about \$150—what I paid for a used but not very old, make-it-3-feet-tall I moved into fountain (see how it works)—to \$1,100 or more for larger and highly ornamented 19th-century antiques.

An urn's versatility, particularly in the yard, can make up for a high price. In addition to using one as a water feature, you can repurpose a single urn with glass for a cactus during cold. Or for a more modern take on vintage cast-iron to keep up with the Joneses, position a small pot at your front entry or instant them on memory post at the end of your driveway to boost your house's curb appeal. ■

† Turn an Urn Into a Fountain

Age and weather are usually stamped by its manufacture and major factors in determining its value. This one has no maker's mark. And because it has very little rust and no traces of old paint, I'd wager that it isn't more than 10 or 20 years old. Though for them an antique, it's handsome and at \$150, the price was right. (I not only pleased to give the urn to my 10th House member Alexandra's garden but also to fill it full of rust-inhibiting water instead of flowers.) The only other major expense for this fountain project was the submersible, recirculating bubbler, which I got at Home Depot for just \$25. The rest was sweat and equity. Following for the how-to.



Step-by-Step

1. Slip the bubbler's cord through slits cut into two rubber plugs. I used a sink stopper and toilet flush valve seat (slits go over top). Get them at the hardware store for about \$2 each.
2. Thread the cord through the drainage hole in the bottom of the urn. (Alex is wicked strong, so I let her do the heavy lifting, or rather, bring.)
3. Squeeze a bead of silicone caulk around the edges of the first stopper, and insert the plug in the hole. Place the second stopper over the first and caulk around its edges to create a water-tight seal. Let it 30 minutes for the caulk to dry.
4. Place the bubbler in the bottom of the urn. To retain the urn's existing finish, wrap with a protective clear coat before exposing to the elements or filling with water.
5. Position the urn where it'll be a focal point in your garden. Then fill with water and plug the bubbler into a GFCI outdoor outlet. If the water geyser is too low or off balance, wedge smooth rocks under the bubbler to raise and level it. —JULIE



ONLINE VIDEO
Watch the complete step-by-step for this fountain project on our website channel: diy.com/channel/devonshiredepot





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Q I want to add a half bath to my house without doing a full-on addition. What are my options for squeezing it into my existing floor plan?



A ADDING A HALF BATH TO A HOME is one of the most common requests I get. People want to increase the value of their houses, of course, but what most of my clients really want is a bathroom that's convenient for their guests to use but doesn't compromise anyone's privacy. (Who wants their friends to see their laundry and prescription bottles, anyway?)

Depending on your house's layout, there are several ways to add a half bath by carving out space from your existing floor plan. What I've presented here are three options that I've worked for my clients: a bathroom tucked underneath a staircase, one carved from a garage, and another carved inside a gabled roof dormer. Other solutions I've used include fitting a half bath into an oversized storage closet or splitting a large full bathroom into a half bath and smaller full bath.

No matter where you decide to put it, there are a few key factors you should keep in mind as you're planning this common renovation project.

1) Dimensions

A half bath needs to be large. You will have enough space if you can find a spot in your house that's about 3 to 4 feet wide and 6 to 8 feet long. If it's any smaller, it will be uncomfortable for people to access. A larger half bath is unnecessary, and it's not likely that you'd find that much "extra" unused space in your house.

**TEXT AND
ILLUSTRATION BY
ALEX HARRIS**
Harris is a writer and editor who has worked for several years at the New York Times. He has more than 20 years experience in writing and editing for print and digital media.



2) Takes Up a Staircase

This option makes use of the area that is frequently underutilized. The privacy is solid, it works best in homes with an enclosed foyer that opens into adjacent hallways or spaces. The new bathroom is usually a good size, and the bathroom is usually a good size. It's best above the bath, where your head is at the height of the ceiling and ventilation is not a problem. Place the sink and toilet in the room to the left of the bathroom. Place the sink and toilet in the room to the left of the bathroom.



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TOOLBOX



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With three clever helpers, kitchen's got to be the best place to store every time when you're in the kitchen. With three clever helpers, kitchen's got to be the best place to store every time when you're in the kitchen.

My mom's collection took years to build up, which you happen to

With three clever helpers, kitchen's got to be the best place to store every time when you're in the kitchen. With three clever helpers, kitchen's got to be the best place to store every time when you're in the kitchen.

With three clever helpers, kitchen's got to be the best place to store every time when you're in the kitchen.

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STEP-BY-STEP WEEKEND PROJECT SERIES



overview

CREATING A SUCCESSFUL PATH that can survive the elements depends on three things: the bricks, the border, and the base. For the bricks, choose ones that are rated for severe weather (SW) after referred to as clay pavers. These won't only stand

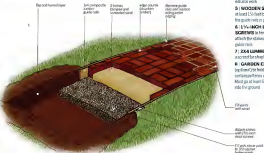
up to the seasons but will also take a lot of foot traffic without cracking. The size of the bricks determines the pattern you choose. Modern "modular" brick measures 6 by 4 inches, and a well-designed walkway is between 2 and 4 feet wide (allowing two people to walk side by side). There are also old-fashioned "standard bricks" whose length is more than twice their width. The newer systems usually have better patterns, such as basket weave, that set two brick ends against a brick's length. Make sure to set them with tight joints no more than 1/8 inch wide to create a sturdy surface and inhibit weeds from growing in between—the tighter the better.

An integral part of every pattern is the border that keeps the bricks in place. Temporary soil guide rails can hold everything in as you lay the bricks. But you still need a permanent border. Traditionally created by bricks turned on end, if they're positioned on their short ends (this is called a "soldier course" if they're edge to edge, or a "soldier course" if they're face to face like dominoes), they can be buried deep enough to provide the necessary support. Tucked on their long edge (called "drunken soldier"), however, as with the Colonial Williamsburg pattern shown in this project, the bricks won't have enough purchase in the ground to hold the path together. In that case, you'll need to keep everything in place with garden edging that extends at least 6 inches below grade.

Regardless of the shape of bricks you use, the walkway is only as good as the base you put under it," says The Old House landscape contractor Roger Cook. Location is one factor in that base. Keep the path at least 2 to 3 feet away from trees with extensive root systems that could push the bricks up. But water is never considered. "If the water can't drain properly, it will pool on the surface, and any freezing and thawing will cause the bricks to pop up," says Roger. "In a worst-case scenario, you'll need to slope the walkway slightly to one side—1/4 inch per foot across its breadth. Beneath the bricks, layers of graded base (a mix of crushed stone and stone dust) topped with sand allow for proper drainage. Both layers need to be tamped down to create a solid base, a job that can be done by hand, though for longer paths you should consider renting a plate compactor for about \$80 a day.



ONLINE
VIDEO
Watch
The Old House
landscape
contractor Roger
Cook lay out the
walkway in
Colonial Williamsburg.



shopping list

1. BRICKS Choose bricks rated for severe weather (SW), abbreviated "dry pavers" at the store tag. Modern bricks measure 6 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 1 1/2 inches thick. Not actual dimensions, so vary by a small amount in each direction. The bricks you buy should give out how many you'll need for your pattern. Depending on the pattern's waste, figure about five bricks per square foot.

2. GRADED BASE A combination of crushed stone and stone dust for creating a sturdy permanent base.

3. MASONRY SAND A smooth, particle-free material for creating a level bed under the bricks.

4. LUMBER COMPOSITE LAMBER Use as temporary guides along the edges of the path as you set the bricks. Composite lumber is easier to bend for curves than standard lumber, though the latter is still an option.

5. WOODEN STAKES at least 1 1/2 inches to secure the guides in place.

6. 1 1/2-INCH DECK SCREWS to temporarily attach the stakes to the guides.

7. LUMBER to make a screen for shaping the sand.

8. GARDEN EDGING (optional) to hold together the edges of the brick. Most go at least 6 inches into the ground.

9. FILLS optional.

10. STAKES optional.

11. FILLS optional.

12. FILLS optional.

13. FILLS optional.

14. FILLS optional.

ILLUSTRATION BY
GREGORY NINE

step by step

1

Excavate the soil

Determine the desired width of your path and add 2 inches. Roughly mark out the positioning of the path at this width using a rope, garden hose, or string paint.

Using a spade, dig out the space between the markings to remove the top layer of soil. Dig until you see the color of the soil change (SIGNT).

Place the excavated soil on a tarp to keep the area clean.



Fill with graded base

Once the walkway is excavated, pour in 1 to 2 inches of graded base (LEFT). Using a hand tamper, pound the layer of base evenly to compact (RIGHT). Add another couple of inches of the base and repeat the process until the tamped layer reaches 3 1/2 inches below grade. (You'll use a power tamper later with 3- to 4-inch layers.)

TIP > Spray the base with water before tamping it to keep the dust down.

Add the sand layer

Make a screen which you can use as a spacer when installing the side guides. Using a hand saw, cut down a 2x4 so it is 10 inches longer than the finished width of your path. Then cut notches of width and then 3 1/2 inches wide and as high as one of your bricks laid flat.

Using a spade, create narrow trenches along the edges of the graded base to fit lengths of 1x4 composite lumber turned on edge. Position the 1x4s along both sides of the walkway, then space them evenly by wedging the notched screen between them. Use a 2x4 to blow the sand into the space. Push the 1x4s in level with the grading grade. Walk your way down the path until both sides are raised. To hold these rails in place, you go drive wooden stakes about a foot into the ground against the outside of the rails every 3 feet. Secure each stake to the lumber with two 1 1/2-inch deck screws, then cut a flush with the rail.

To grade the path for drainage, cut a small slope of wood to a 1x4, making it 1/4 inch for every foot of the path's width. Tape the slope to the end of a 4-foot level. Read the level across the two rails with the slope wood positioned on top of the rail on the lower side of the path. Using a shovel, lay the rail into the ground until the bubble reads level.

Pour about 2 inches of masonry sand or stone dust into the space between the rails. Tamp the sand. Position the screen between the rails and push it across the sand to even out the surface and fill in the low spots (RIGHT). If necessary, add more sand. Tamp. Unhooked again.



4

4 Lay the brick edging

Group out shallow trenches about 2½ inches deep inside both sides of the guide rails. Lay a brick on edge inside the trench and using a steel blow mallet, pound it flush with the top of the garden rail (LEFT). Use the level with the scrapwood attachment to check the slope of the brick as you set it. Continue setting bricks along the edges in this manner until the entire path is edged on both sides.



BUILD YOUR SKILL

Learn how to set bricks to fit different patterns. [Workshop > 135](#)

5 Fill in the field

When the notches on either side of the scored set fit between the edge bricks with about ¼ inch of wiggle room on either side. Use it to spread the sand again.

Begin laying the pattern between the edging. Hold a brick on the sand, press it against the edge brick and position it so it is even with the start of the path. Once it is in position, let it down directly in place. Using a mallet, tap the brick level with the edge course. Continue laying bricks in this manner, tapping each to set it (RIGHT), until the path is filled in. Check the slope of the bricks with the level and scrap-wood attachment as you work.

When you lay the bricks, make sure not to drag them across the sand or your joints will fill with sand and they won't be tight.



6 Fill the joints

Shovel a thin layer of masonry sand or stone dust over the top of the bricks. Using a large push broom, sweep the sand into the joints between the bricks (LEFT). Wet the path with a hose to settle the sand, then brush more wet sand into the cracks until they are packed tightly and filled to the surface.

Let the sand settle for one week and refill any settled joints with more sand. After another week, unscrew the stakes and remove the guide rails. Finish the sides with garden edging set flush with the top of the brick.

{ buying guide }

Choosing the right pattern to suit the shape of your driveway (and your skills) can drastically reduce your work time. Read on to see which patterns are easy to arrange, how many cuts you'll make and what will—or won't—work with a curve.

Running Bond

Bricks are laid end to end with joints that fall in the middle of the brick on the next row. One of the simplest and easiest patterns to install, running bond only requires minimal cutting of bricks and doesn't easily follow a gentle curve.



Random Where

Pairs of bricks alternate to create a random appearance. On a straight path, this pattern only requires cutting the fit at each end, but on a curve you may have to make more cuts, requiring you to cut in one place with a chisel or saw.



Spanish Dowl

Four bricks form a square that encloses a half brick spacer. Square feet. Since the outer square must make 90-degree angles to fit the half brick, the pattern is difficult to adapt to a curve.



PHOTOS: ANDREW BARTHOLOMEW FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

Diagonal

Turning the running bond on a 45-degree angle will eventually create a neat and stylish sample to put down, but every alternate brick that abuts the edging will need to be custom-cut to fit.



Diagonal Random Where

Turning the squares of Random Where 45 degrees adds visual depth and will result in a curve ready but requires a lot of custom cutting along the perimeter.



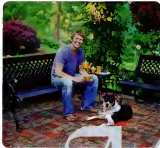
Extend indoor comforts outside to increase your home's living and entertaining space. Here's how >>

BY JOSH GASKOF

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD FELSEN
STYLING BY MICHELLE LAY

Rooms With A View





MOST YARDS consist of a lawn, with a smattering of shrubs and flowers. You mow,

you weed, you prune, and you admire your handiwork on your way to the mailbox, but otherwise your landscape may not see much action. Yet by thinking of the spaces outside your house the same way you think about the ones inside, you can transform your property with versatile outdoor living areas that draw family members and friends to all points near (the front porch) and far (the back fence).

Case in point is the outdoor space around this 1920s farmhouse in the Catskill Mountains of upper New York, owned by Bruce Littlefield, above. When he bought the place in 1999, it was so overgrown with brush and poison ivy that it took the whole summer to clear it. What he found underneath were stone foundation walls from an old dairy barn and the ruins of a storage shed and tiled silo. Otherwise, it was a fairly blank slate. The author of several lifestyle books about decorating inside and out with vintage finds—including the recent *Garage Sale America*—Bruce envisioned his property as a series of open-air rooms centered on a different activity or landscape feature. “I figured I could double the size of my house and the number of people I could have over by adding rooms outdoors,” he says.

We can all learn a few things from Bruce’s example. So whether the green space around your home is surrounded by woods, at the end of a cul-de-sac, or inside a city block, here are six simple guidelines that’ll help you get the most out of your landscape.

Furnish a porch, deck, or patio like a living room

THE FURNITURE ON MOST PORCHES backs up against the house, which is fine as an observation post or a place to read the paper, but it’s not the best setup for socializing. For that, you need seats that face each other (much like you’d have in a living room).

What new ideas bloom: When Bruce designed the front porch outside his farmhouse, he wanted a place to sit 12 to 15 deep instead of the usual 6 to 8. He added electric outlets for playing at table lamps and recharging his laptop while he can use the porch as a home office. To make the most of his space, Bruce planted boxwoods around the low-slung porch on three open sides, rather than

lining the walls. This increased the usable floor space and allowed him to hang a vintage swing, which he fixed toward the side that sits against the house. Streamlined furniture, such as an armless weatherproof sofa, petite metal chairs, and padded wood stools—all based at pivot wheels or on roller-wheels—let the space open further.

More take-home tips: On a back deck or patio, create different furniture groupings based on the activities you want to have happen there. For instance, a large all-weather table and chairs in the center can easily accommodate a family or brunch, while benches along the perimeter will encourage casual party conversation.



Create a feeling of enclosure—and some shade—with an overhead structure

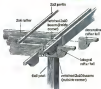
A LITTLE COVER from the hot sun will make an outdoor room more comfortable—but that doesn't mean you need a solid roof.

What was the designer's goal? Building this vine-covered pergola over the patio creates a lush and shaded light on the rooftop deck—and any seated occupants—below. It also supports hanging flower pots. Grace's garden designer, Tim Cleary, used pressure-treated steel posts to support a grid of 2x6 beams and 2x6 rafters. The leafy screen wall was required for his American western style that Mary Cleary, fine arts and business partner, loved up the posts. Greenhouse The Trade, a long-time garden grower, used only local plants to grow. Mary and Tim used painted boards and brick scaffolding. Mary installed elements to cover the posts with summer bloomers. (For more ideas, see the list at right.)

More solar-borne tips: A retractable lawn covering all the side of your house or a patio umbrella can also provide cover, keeping detritus and insects in West Baking in the heat. Detritus and cardboard umbrellas can shade most of a sunroom or deck (www.umbrella.com and www.umbrella.com offer a look at some of the best.)



Know-how: Making a strong, stylish pergola



A GOOD PART OF THE DETAIL on the freestanding people shown above and much of its stability are found in its four corners where the top of the posts are wrapped with two sets of interlocking beams that have either been here: David Velasco of Tefco Structures—The Old House landscape architect Regis Cook's go-to guy for custom people—shows how to make his base better connection.

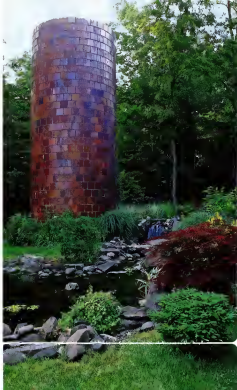
2. Where beams cross on the outside corner of the post, notch them about halfway through—one from the top, the other from the bottom—as they'll weather with the top flush.

2. For beams: End-nail at the inside corner of the post, cut off the other end to the same length as the ones extending off the side out of bays. Watch beams halfway through where they meet at the post & make sure they should fit together with the tops flush.

2. Attach to table: deep shafe is on outside face of the bottom of beams to support the second set of composite girders. BSI will keep them from really pulling away when the temperature changes. (Use and note the cast-in-place – but, twice)

More Perennial Vines
See Perennials

Sweet A-Z Summer Classics
Heavy foliage with
small white late
summer flowers.
Climbing hydrangea
Woody stems and big,
flat white flowerheads
Heavy summer
Trumpet honeysuckle
Tubular scarlet
flowers that give off
a heady scent
Dutchman's Pipe
Large heart shaped
leaves that make
an excellent screen.



Use a water feature to draw people out into the yard

BUILD A FEEL-POUND—In place of a birdbath or purpling fountain near your property line to bring lively energy and luck for a visit, maximizing every inch of your green space.

What was done here: The large boulders arranged around Bruce's pond give it a natural look. They also provide sturdy impromptu seating. There's no need to lug chairs out to the water or dig to watch the hot tubber and frogs.

Bruce chose this as the pond's location because it runs from an old concrete granitic—basaltic ash still stands—collected a perfect basin for the upper pond where water begins its journey down a waterfall. When planning a pond at your own investment it's under a cluster of trees. "You don't want to spend all your time clearing leaves and debris out of the water," Bruce says.

Have there been times you can't create a far simpler design point with a fountain? All you really need is a pump, something for the water to pour into—such as a stack of river rocks—and a stream to catch the overflow. Scott Taylor, landscape architect for the public works department in the city of San Francisco, says that he's been leaving abandoned outdoor amphitheatres, a fountain helps draw out noise from singing birds and car traffic.

And he says there's a signal and a GCD in nearly every defining architectural feature and every design.

THREE THINGS This deck, designed by Architects of North Atlanta, began: the house with multiple activity zones, including a dining area, a breakfast bar and a lounge. The spaces are considered by the deck's unique footprint, by views that lead around trees, and by the way the deck boards can be altered direction. Designing around existing trees helps blend the deck into the landscape.

calling
containers

design
features

deck
boards

New synthetic materials and stylish design features transform the old raised rectangle into an easy-to-care-for, good-looking getaway

the
high-tech,
low-fuss

deck

Forty years ago, pressure-treated deck boards were the greatest thing to hit the housing market since, er, vinyl siding.

Hundreds of thousands of gray-green rectangles made of the rot- and insect-resistant wood have since been affixed to the backs of houses across the country. But while the weathered boards held up well under most conditions, wood will be wood, and it's going to need some—cleaning, staining, sanding and sealing.

Today composite decking does even treated wood one better by doing away with the bulk of the upkeep. Made of a mix of waste wood or cellulose fiber and plastic, composite boards typically require only an occasional cleaning to keep them looking sharp. Some go as far as nonwood railings offered in a variety of materials including composite vinyl, glass, aluminum.

Deck designs have evolved. Too many homeowners seeking activity-specific spaces for dining, lounging and cooking that mimic rooms inside their houses. No longer just a bare board place to unfold a lawn chair and grill a burger, the deck has become a hub for outdoor living and entertaining.

Read on for the latest looks in decks and the updated materials they're made from.



design features

Before pouring the final look for the deck at the Atlanta home of owner and the previous project. Dan Smith met with a local designer from Atlanta to select a custom deck building firm to come up with a design that would be easy to use the space. The father of three would be using the deck for a small backyard. "The days of the deck that's just a plain, impersonal square are gone," says Bill Butler, owner of Deck Creations in Santa Barbara, California.

"People want the space to be their own. They're thinking in terms of outdoor rooms."

The same vision of spaces that you have inside your house, deck to be a finished outdoor room where you can relax and enjoy the outdoors. To make a heart for working on an evening shift, for instance, place a transparent portable propane heater or ceramic chiminea in a cozy corner where you can sit down at night with a drink and a glass of wine.

Delighting these spaces on your deck can be done by adding deck lighting to the deck, varying the orientation of deck boards, or incorporating up a little with a few chairs and a table.

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deck boards

Composite decking means you can forget the annual staining and sealing rituals that go along with wood. Though composites rollups differ—various types of plastics and strengthening fillers such as wood flour or fiber filler are used—all require less follow-up work than wood. The Gooddeck boards used for the deck shown here are made from a mix of polyethylene, purified wood fiber and other materials. They won't rot, and they'll never need refinishing. What they do require is occasional cleaning. The six rows make deck work a thing of the past. Says Smith: "It's a lot easier to clean than wood."

Even in the Pacific Northwest—a land of plentiful cedar and teakwood—like Knapik, owner of Deck Builders Inc., often composites for almost all the decks he builds. It costs as much as \$1,000 per square foot for premium deck boards, but it's a lot less than \$1 per square foot for premium deck boards.

For some reason (it's a lot better), I call the supplier and beyond a moment, he says, if you're looking to compare composites, start by reviewing technical specifications, color charts and cleaning instructions. Make sure you're looking at the same boards will be attached to one another, and to the joists. Most are fastened with regular deck screws, but some boards have channels along the edges for hidden fastening systems such as those made by D-Bo. So screws will be visible. Another hidden feature: Tiger Claw locks boards together with stainless-steel clips. Other boards go down like tongue-and-groove flooring. But none of the plastic with steel will set at a 45-degree angle. Finally, you'll need to decide whether you prefer the look of smooth or textured boards. An embossed grain pattern will provide a little extra traction, but smooth boards are also slip resistant.



ONLINE VIDEO
Watch the Deck Management
series for more on how to
maintain your deck.

Be bold when it comes to traditional decks and metal railings. And when it comes to vinyl, choose the style you like best. Some companies offer low-maintenance as well as low-cost railings with curved profiles. Contemporary systems with tapered glass panels or stainless-steel cables between metal or composite posts have the plus of allowing the view. Whatever style you choose, keep in mind that no matter how you choose to do it, a deck is a deck. It's a deck.



railing systems

It's even more of a hassle to maintain a deck railing—with its posts, rails, and balusters—than it is to keep up the boards. So the less work the better. Many wood railings are made of cedar, a simple square baluster style can turn into a simple square baluster style. But there are many other styles to choose from. They can be made of wood, metal, or composite. They can be made of wood, metal, or composite. They can be made of wood, metal, or composite.

The only way to Smith's deck is the painted posts. The Deckorators railings are powder-coated aluminum with stainless-steel cables and that curved glass balusters. The balusters (at least on the deck) are stainless steel and the posts are made of aluminum.

Like railing systems include composites and metal railings. And when it comes to vinyl, choose the style you like best. Some companies offer low-maintenance as well as low-cost railings with curved profiles. Contemporary systems with tapered glass panels or stainless-steel cables between metal or composite posts have the plus of allowing the view. Whatever style you choose, keep in mind that no matter how you choose to do it, a deck is a deck. It's a deck.

the best in modern deck materials

For a smart-looking, long-lasting deck choose from these six stylish non-wood railings and six composite boards in a variety of colors, surface textures, and faux wood-grain patterns.

railings

METAL IS AT THE CORE OF MANY NEW NONWOOD RAIL SYSTEMS, ENSURING THEIR STRENGTH AND STABILITY

1 The Powertone vinyl slat system covered deck wood posts. The coordinating rail is a composite, and the smoke balusters are powder-coated steel. Starts at \$24 per linear foot. vanguard.com

2 This sleek, rivet-free railing looks like painted wood, but it's actually an GFR composite called PVC. The rail has a built-in assembly so that all the fasteners are hidden. About \$22 per linear foot. compositon.com

3 The vinyl posts in this traditional-looking railing system are wrapped in a layer of composite and then sheathed with white vinyl slats. The rail is made from a composite. Starts at \$33 per linear foot. vanguard.com

4 Vertical stainless-steel cables form a nearly invisible barrier between balusters. Steel rails and vinyl-clad wood posts. Toller system. \$228 per linear foot. toller.com

5 Sandwiched between composite rails and posts (see detail) is a thick block of composite called balusters. The rail has a built-in assembly so that all the fasteners are hidden. About \$22 per linear foot. compositon.com

6 This custom powder-coated steel railing has industrial strength but a delicate look. Mesh panels between tubular posts and rails wrap around the steel. Starts at about \$40 per linear foot. Contact your local steel supplier for pricing and color styles.



BUILD YOUR DECK
Learn how to plan, construct, and finish your deck.
decking.com



boards

THESE LOW-MAINTENANCE WOOD ALTERNATIVES CUT AND MILL JUST LIKE THE REAL THING

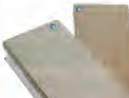
1, 2 Available in several sizes, textures, and colors, these boards are made of polypropylene and won't stain. Starts at \$14 per linear foot. vanguard.com

3 Part of the EcoDeck collection, this board is made of recycled plastic and wood. Starts at \$14 per linear foot. ecodeck.com

4 This is a traditional board, but it's made of PVC and has a fiber-reinforced core. Starts at \$14 per linear foot. vanguard.com

5 This is a traditional board, but it's made of PVC and has a fiber-reinforced core. Starts at \$14 per linear foot. vanguard.com

6 This is a traditional board, but it's made of PVC and has a fiber-reinforced core. Starts at \$14 per linear foot. vanguard.com





PHOTOGRAPHY Shagun Luvastar
ARCHITECTURE Linda Greenwald
STYLING Jay Jay
PRODUCTION Jay Jay
EDITING Jay Jay

HOST Tom Lillo
PRODUCTION Linda Greenwald
STYLING Jay Jay
PRODUCTION Jay Jay
EDITING Jay Jay

PRODUCTION Linda Greenwald
STYLING Jay Jay
PRODUCTION Jay Jay
EDITING Jay Jay



BEFORE

FROM THE TOH TV JOB SITE

the Just- Big- Enough House

How one TOH TV
 homeowner enlarged
 her cottage to
 accommodate life's
 changes without
 sacrificing its small-
 house charm

By Alexandra Davies
 Photographs by Julian Wren
 Styling by Kay Ray

HO, OR, homeowner Raylene
 Pridemore says her new
 porch gully. The working
 2000s-style design
 house (PHOTO) has all
 the power and a high
 ceiling. The addition, which
 includes a two-story "cath-
 edral" space, is a modern
 two-story structure with a
 smaller side addition. A few
 years ago, she moved to the
 new residence.





NEW ORLEANS IS A CITY OF SMALL HOUSES. Oh sure, there are the grand color-coded verandas and post-Katrina McMansions. But for the most part, the blocks of the Big Easy are lined with rows upon rows of sweet-faceted shotgun bungalows. So when it came time for cemented and teacher Rashida Ford to think about renovating more space in her Lower Ninth Ward home, a renovation recently denounced by *The New York Times* as "blowing out the walls or adding a full second story just when it's a option. Her addition needed to respect the scale of the area—as well as her budget.

Rashida's operation mirrors many that are happening in aging, close-knit urban neighborhoods around the country. Like a lot of young homeowners, she needs to turn her out-of-date bedroom, one-bath into a modern mix of bedrooms, two baths so she could stay for a while—through single life, married life, and family life. "I don't want to leave this house," she says. But when it's time to neighbor hood into its charm to diminutive houses, adding on respectfully and responsibly is a delicate matter.

Fortunately, there are ways to expand without being overly expensive. Increase conservatively, make better use of existing spaces, and blend old and new seamlessly. What Rashida ended up with, built from a design by local architect Rick Filfield, is quickly recognizable as the talented style she's shown on stage she bought a year before Hurricane Katrina. Which is surprising, given that they nearly doubled its original 1,200 square feet. A carb-back addition—a small, two-story hangar at the back of the single-story house—manages to keep the lines of the house intact. Here's a look at the simple levels she and Filfield followed for keeping a small house small.

1 Preserve the modest facade.

Stand directly in front of Rashida's newly renovated house, and it's hard to tell that much more was done to it than adding fresh paint and renewed cabinets. That effect is deliberate: as the addition is contained behind the house and the small second-story hangar only past the roof of the existing roofline, the front of the house looks just as it did when it was built back in the 1950s. Getting a second-story addition back from the facade below helps maximize it.

Following the existing roofline makes a big difference, too. Even when this carb-back addition is viewed from the side, it looks congruous because the profile of the new roof matches the old. "If we had extended the second floor over the old on the side of the house, where the bedrooms are, it would have looked really fat," and the roof would have gotten really over-canted," says Ford. "We kept the added square footage by making the carb-backship profile echo the original."

2 Match the exterior to the neighborhood.

For an addition to fit in, it needs to fit in not only the lines of the existing house but those of nearby homes as well. Even in areas where there is a mix of styles, when the overall scale is consistent, a well-thought-out addition is seamless to the neighborhood and doesn't make the house stand out as the biggest in the block. That means not building an addition 10 feet taller than other houses. It also means keeping an eye on historic old lines, having them height in the individual floors line up with those around them.

Equally important is matching the footprint. Just because you can expand into a side yard doesn't mean you should. It might compromise the neighbors' privacy or mood. Rashida's house is the side with a long porch that runs the girth of an end-bellows house. Because it's open, it doesn't look so prominent and bulky. Rashida gets a little more space without adding footprints to the street that goes with it.



ENTRANCE PORCH
 1950s-style brickwork
 and a large wooden porch
 (shown in the photo)
 1950s-style brickwork
 and a large wooden porch
 (shown in the photo)
 1950s-style brickwork
 and a large wooden porch
 (shown in the photo)



The Plan

The original 1,200-sq-ft shotgun bungalow gained 1,000 square feet by adding 12 feet to the back of the house and two stacking, color-coded "rooms" above the old. The new additions were designed to blend in with the existing house, matching the brickwork and the overall footprint. The new additions were designed to blend in with the existing house, matching the brickwork and the overall footprint. The new additions were designed to blend in with the existing house, matching the brickwork and the overall footprint.

OLD HOUSE, by architect, the right use of the traditional shotgun house—adding a porch that runs the full width of the house—allows the addition to fit in with the neighborhood. The new additions were designed to blend in with the existing house, matching the brickwork and the overall footprint. The new additions were designed to blend in with the existing house, matching the brickwork and the overall footprint.

TRIM PAGE. The new lining goes on the back of the trim, replicating the ceiling height, room dimensions, and main structural details of the original system. The result is a simplified look that's almost too clean.



The neuronal growth factor **brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)** and **nerve growth factor (NGF)** bind to the cell's neuronal receptors, signal outwards off the cell with cell-surface proteins to pass on the message, making the cells feel much happier.

A Bittersweet Return

On the first day of filming the *Four Obamas* project, the Clinton Center's master storyteller, M. J. McManus, had Clinton's Governor and father-in-law with him for the consumer and exhibitor, and as a result, he passed up the chance to shoot the first September 16, the same day as the publication of the book. He later shot the group of Clinton's family members, including his mother, and his work at the Clinton Center.

[illegible]

But that's not to say that the show has only lost. "The thing that surprised me most was that the people we had were very dependent on our first two lines," says Lewis, who had returned to the "first time since the show's 1994 peak from his last period, as illustrated last June, the late arrival of New Orleans—the music, the food, the culture—wasn't really using 'Warps' as a story," says Harris. "But in spite of some of the less-than-ideal lines, they're still looking for something, they're still going to figure out how to tell their story." And that, says Lewis, will ultimately be the key to the show's survival.



3 Limit additions to only what you need.

Starting with a gray bedroom on the left, he lists the possibilities for exploration and says again that Florida knew what she needed: an island showcase that didn't require much. She wanted a private family space at the back of the house that was distinct from the public front areas, another bedroom on the first floor, and a master suite upstairs to capture the views of the Mississippi Delta. At first she wanted all of those spaces to be large enough to house a vacation "life showcase" that she could plan the furniture she wanted and have the view that she wanted but still stay in character with the scale of the building. Says Hillyard, "Now Florida's house says she wants a solo homeowner, but it will work just as well as a family home." He notes

ON THESE PAGES
 10 **COVER** *Entrepreneur* also
 engineered *Foraging* from
 Latham's *Amateur* story
 12 **COVER** *Eligible* *Eligible*
 and *Eligible* *Eligible*
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4 Borrow details and proportions to tie old and new together.

Their squalling noise that mimicked our address looked unlike an afterthought. In *Paruska whiteus*, the back address expired.

15 feet beyond the original footprint. But it's hard to tell that the space was halved there because the design preserves the shotgun layout. You can still stand at the front door and see clear through the rooms to the back porch.

Architectural details add to the continuity. The same trim profile appears in every room. Similar French doors line the exterior walls throughout. And most important, every room has the same proportions: both in dimension—like many shotgun houses, all the rooms are the same size, 12 by 23 feet in this case—and in vertical sight lines, with matching ceiling, windows and door heights. “One of the most jarring things can be an inconsistent fit to the doors,” says Fiskel. “Some actually spent a lot of money to match all the window, doors and windows with new custom-cuts.”

5 Open up the space in the original house.

Another key to keeping added square footage to a minimum (which is how you can maximize the old house to better suit your needs) when clients need to have architect for the first time is it is good idea to talk about how this process it goes could be more organic—say a kitchen moved from the front to the back of the house or the existing layout opened up to make the house more functional for modern living. The concept is not just respectful of the original architecture, it's also a money-saver: your budget works much better if you're not adding a new foundation, roof and walls.

When Kishida bought her house, it had two small rooms just inside the front door. Right on the wall that joined the two to create one open space to serve both as a dining/living room and a gallery space. She abated a piece. Through in the adjacent kitchen to open it up for when she entertains.

Now!Fashade has the best of both worlds: a small cottage feel with very public and private gathering areas. And she did it all without overwhelming the cozy neighborhood the house sits so perfectly. ■

continued
Sequences

See below pictured the
New Orleans House of
Representatives from 1800

10 Smart Reasons to Remodel Now

By Jack Handman

For many homeowners, the downturn has a big upside. From contractors who need work to material supplies exceeding demand, here's the TOH take on why to hit the home center today



IT WAS A GOOD RUN.

From 2001 to 2005, the American house rose in value by an average of 50 percent. That made it a no-brainer to take out a home equity loan for redoing the kitchen or adding a master bathroom—and it created big profits for anyone who renovated and flipped a four-upper. Not anymore. The average home price fell last year, for the first time in the 40 years that the National Association of Realtors has tracked sales data. With all the turmoil in the housing market, it's no wonder homeowners like you are skittish about investing in upgrades, even if you're sitting pretty with a sensible, fixed-rate mortgage.

But every cloud, and perhaps every exploded bubble, has a silver lining. The slowdown has hit the construction industry hard and turned home improvement into a buyer's market. And that makes this a great time for a project, whether you hire out or do it yourself. As long as you didn't buy near the peak in a ZIP code where prices doubled or tripled and you plan to stick around to enjoy the results for a few years, there's almost no way you won't come out ahead. "Once you get past the psychological dimension and look at things objectively, there are a lot of good reasons to do a project now," says Kermit Baker, senior research fellow at Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies. Here are 10 of them.

1 Money is cheap.

After years of conservative lending to high-risk borrowers, banks have closed the proverbial loan closet and reopened up their standards. But for anyone with three things—a good credit rating, at least 20 percent equity left in his home, and proof of income—

lenders are as eager as ever to extend the lines of credit. "They used to shuff out of those bad loans with quality ones," says Greg McBride, senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve's cuts have driven down home-equity interest rates from 12.5 percent to 6.4 percent

in the past six months alone, and analysts expect them to fall even farther.

2 Contractors are taking small jobs.

A few years ago, contractors could afford to choose only big-budget projects, but now they need smaller jobs to keep their crews busy. Take northern Virginia contractor Tom Wronos, for example. "Our typical job was a 1,000- to 2,000-square-foot addition, for \$200,000 or more," he says. "Now it's a \$30,000 kitchen renovation." Woodbury, New Jersey, contractor Jay Capriano has dedicated a handful of his 23 staff tradesmen to "handyman jobs" with price tags of \$15,000 or less.

3 You can get it done fast.

"Two or three years ago, when you called a contractor, it could be six months before he even answered your call," says Bernard Markowitz, the director of job costing and analysis for the National Association of Homebuilders. "Today, all you have to do is think about a project you want to do, and three contractors will call you." It's exaggerating, of course, but you can shave 12- or 15-month waits. So as soon as you sign the deal for your new bathroom, plumbing, you'll begin start clearing out the junk. The framing crew may show up in a matter of days.

4 Materials prices have dropped.

With the falloff in demand, construction materials are readily available, and many have come down in price. Between January 2007 and January 2008, framing lumber fell 13.4 percent, insulation 5.6 percent, and wallboard whopping 22 percent. That

means taking a weekend to roof up the insulation in the attic or finally finishing off that corner of your basement is particularly cost-effective project right now. "You can also get some items made quickly. 'When we were running, full tub, remodeled toilet was 14 to 16 weeks,' says Vince Achary, vice president of sales and part owner of Hvac & Energy Control Company. "Now they're 7 to 10 weeks."

5 You can cut a deal on labor costs.

To fill their calendars, some contractors have begun discounting their services. "We're offering a number of 10 and 15 percent off projects," says Brian Hume, a vice president of Fresno Depot's Home Services, the company's installation services unit. Ironically, the home center has been discounting labor at its 2,000 stores, and independent contractors around the country report seeing back their prices similarly.

6 Some of the bad apples are gone.

When the home improvement business was going gangbusters, anyone with a pickup truck and a metal clipboard could call himself a general contractor. He didn't need experience, skill, or good working relationships with subcontractors in his business. "Times are tougher, and it's the marginal guys who have gone under. 'The contractors who are still standing are more likely to be those who have been around longer, who are more professional, who produce more accurate bids, and who are better at customer relations,'" says Harvard's Kermit Baker. Of course, you still need to do your due diligence and check references so you don't wind up being a fishing contractor's unfortunate next client. Also, be wary of new home builders trying to drum up customer business; they may not have experience with older houses or working closely with homeowners.

7 You can enjoy the results.

Given the state of real estate, you're probably not going to be selling for a few years. And that means you can truly enjoy the improvements you make. "We're in an era where, rather than searching for a trophy house, we can think about we're already the house we're already in to make ourselves happy," says Daniel McGinn, author of *House Lust*, a book about how



America become obsessed with McMansions, vacation houses, and "retreating" to real estate during the lean. But here it, after all the expense and stress of a kitchen remodel, wouldn't you like to settle down at that house again? Instead, ask for a whole?

8 You won't take a big tax hit.

Just as a home improvement won't drastically increase the sales price of your house, a won't drive up your property taxes, either. "If you put \$15,000 or \$25,000 into a \$200,000 house right now, it's probably still a \$200,000 house," says San Antonio tax attorney Stanley Skidell, who chairs the American Bar Association's action on taxation. Since property tax assessments are based on what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller in the current marketplace, there's a good chance that your home improvements will have little or no effect on your assessment, at least until the market picks up again.

9 You can slash your energy bills.

Had you done your project a few years ago, you probably wouldn't have thought much about energy efficiency. But heating fuel and electricity costs have doubled over the last two years, says Paul Seibald, senior energy analyst at the Vermont Energy Investment Corp., a nonprofit agency charged with improving energy efficiency in the state. That

means the additional cost of choosing a high-efficiency furnace, say, which might have taken 10 years of lower utility bills to recoup, could now be recovered in 3. And you'll probably be in the house long enough to earn back that extra money. "This energy efficiency will make your home more comfortable," Schofield says, "and it will reduce your carbon footprint."

When the market picks up, you'll be ready.

If and when you do put your house on the market, shoppers will appreciate the upgrades you've made. "I always tell you up a lot of improvements that the seller has done and when they did them," says Fairfield, Connecticut, Real Estate, a director of the Fairfield School of Real Estate. "Work done there to live your best shows that you took care of the house, whereas more recent upgrades can look as if they were done to prevent a quick sale." It's like the difference between simply dashing your car before you sell it and having a private record of changing the oil and keeping it tuned up over its life. Steve says: Making improvements now will best position you to make your move in sync with the market picks up. While everyone else is calling contractors for their get-out-to-sell projects, you won't be. Your house will be ready. ■



Every cloud—
and perhaps
every exploded
bubble—
has a silver
lining.

Here's pro
advice

Get paid to work
on weekends at
Home Depot early
Alerts



Traditional looks, an easy
at hand on its a top a
cover is an outdoor favorite
because it looks good and
won't eat. Turn the page
for more look styles
and other smart choices
dining options

THE

BEST
SEATS

NOT

IN
THE

HOUSE

Quick—summer's coming!
Time to get rid of that tired old plastic table and chairs.
Here are eight dining sets that will do your patio proud

You've spent countless weekends and a considerable chunk of your savings laying the perfect stone patio, landscaping the backyard, and setting up the barbecue. Also, make your outdoor space the relaxing oasis you dreamed it could be. So why the heck aren't you spending more time out there? Maybe because you have no comfortable place to sit down. This season's new outdoor furniture options are stylish, sturdy, durable, and easier than ever to care for. If your taste runs to the traditional, there's a weather-worthy look and Victorian-inspired wicker-looker. If you like your furniture with a little edge, stainless-steel and-wood combos bring a modern sensibility to the great outdoors. No matter what you choose, a comfortable functional dining set will go a long way toward making your patio or patioside more inviting. So toss the plastic, and stop this way. Your table is waiting.

BY KATHY JOHNSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JULIAN THOMAS
DESIGNED BY
COURTESY SCANTON



1. SOUTHERN WICKER
The "wicker" of this beautiful wicker set is actually weather-resistant resin that imitates the wicker look without the real thing. The clean-lined design and contemporary look give this set a look that will stand the test of time. \$1,799. www.southernwicker.com

2. LIVING IN LUXURY
Bamboo, metal, and aluminum mix in a high-backed structure, a hand-applied oil finish, and a variety of resistant materials to bring you a look that's as beautiful as it is durable. \$2,799. www.livinginluxury.com

3. CAPE LANE
With a classic look that you can't resist, this set is made of weather-resistant materials and features a variety of colors and finishes. \$2,499. www.capelane.com

4. BLOOMING BAMBINO
Capture the spirit of an English garden with a Blooming Bambino set. The set includes a round table, four chairs, and a bench. \$1,499. www.bloomingbambino.com

5. CLASSIC TEAK
As with most things, the longevity of your outdoor furniture depends on how well it's put together. The set doesn't have a lot of moving parts, and the teak is made of a solid piece of wood. \$1,499. www.classic-teak.com

6. NEEDY MATTHEWS
The combination of teak, PVC, metal, and other materials makes this set a durable choice. \$1,499. www.needy-matthews.com



7. TRADITIONAL FLARE
The intricate wicker details and curved chair backs come straight out of the 19th century. But 21st-century materials make this set a better choice than the originals. \$1,499. www.traditionalflare.com

8. MODERN STYLE
A 40-inch high-top, high-back chair and a 40-inch high-top table make this set a better choice than the originals. \$1,499. www.modernstyle.com

9. GET INSPIRED
See if you can inspire your outdoor space with this set. \$1,499. www.getinspired.com

HOW TO KEEP IT LOOKING GREAT

New weather-resistant materials make it easier than ever to keep outdoor furnishings clean and mildew-free. But every material requires some care. Here's a quick rundown.

Aluminum: A soft sponge and mild liquid detergent clean almost any metal. Remove rust on wrought iron and steel with a wire brush or by sanding lightly before touching up with rust-inhibiting paint. Oil aluminum covers and glides at least twice a year. Don't leave furniture out in winter, as moisture can accumulate in tubing and crevices, distorting its shape.

Wicker: When possible, vacuum the dirt out of woven nooks and crannies. Or you can hose down plastic, metal, or synthetic wicker with a mild detergent mixed with cold water. Rinse well afterward. While synthetic furniture can be left outside year-round, real wicker should be stored inside to protect it from the harshest elements.

Teak: Hose down the wood with fresh water. Then scrub dirt and stains with a sponge or soft-bristle brush soaked in a solution of soap flakes (or a mild liquid soap dissolved in warm water). A thorough cleaning at the beginning and end of the season will keep the wood looking fresh.

Fabric: Remove dirt with a soft-bristle brush. For PVC-coated polyester, vinyl, acrylic blends, and solution-dyed acrylics, spot test for potential discoloration before brushing with a cup of household bleach mixed with equal parts of water. Use only soap and water on printed fabrics or polyesters to protect colors. Hose off with cold water; let cushions and covers air-dry.

TIP
An annual coating of teak oil will preserve the lustrous gold tones of teak for years to come.



ABOVE: The black cherry trees for Thos. Moser's furniture come exclusively from sustainably managed forests like this one in northwestern Pennsylvania, where they sprouted in high concentrations after clear-cutting in the late 19th century. (6x11") Cherry naturally turns India's autumn-leaf shades, which will appear on heirloom's first-to-ship Master American Bungalow dresser.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD AN HEIRLOOM

For the folks at Thos. Moser, it starts with select cherry trees, old-fashioned craftsmanship, and a passionate respect for the wood

BY THOMAS BAKER • PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUSSELL KAYE
• PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON



IN THE QUIET

of the Thos. Moser design shop, David Moser pulls up a live cherry board and lays them edge to edge. He's looking for pieces that will match up well so that no joint will show when they're glued together to form the top of an American Bengalwood dresser. Moser studies the warts and folds of the grain on each piece, picks pieces and sizes up the wood to use in the dresser. He usually selects the lightest wood he can get, but this time he's looking for a darker wood—a natural heartwood, but of freshly milled, oil-finished black cherry—just to make sure that, when finished, the dresser will look as if they were cut from the same trunk. ■ At Thos. Moser Cabinetry, a small but world-renowned shop in Ashland, Maine, selecting the wood that will go into each piece is the first critical step in creating the company's distinctive line of finely crafted cherry furniture. It's a ritual driven by a deep passion for the wood. All of Moser's cherry comes from 119,000-acre parcel in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, where big 75- and 100-year-old specimens produce a clear, rich, colored wood scattered everywhere in the tree's rings. For most of this province, it would be a sin to mow the grass with a lawnmower or hedge a yard with a trimmer, so pieces are treated only with clear penetrating oil and wax. ■ Such a finish gives cherry a remarkable luster and translucency, but it also reveals every imperfection made by nature or man. That's why selecting the wood for a dresser can sometimes take longer than it does to cut and assemble it. Or why blades and bits are constantly honed to a high degree of sharpness, lest a duller leave a dark burn mark. ■ That respect for wood also explains much of Moser's success for impossible and unending. "The wood is not perfect, and so is everything else it is joined to, so you have to make up for imperfections from it," company founder Thomas Moser wrote in 2002. "The best way to honor it is to create the finest, most durable, most beautiful furniture that we can." ■ To make a piece that will survive as long as it takes to grow another 100-year-old cherry, Moser leans closely to the kind of wood-to-wood jointery that has passed the test of time: pegged mortises and tenons, dovetails, wedged, through tenons and half-lap, among others. Metal fasteners are used where they make sense, but they're kept to a minimum (and are well hidden). ■ In the end, all this insistence on excellence and craftsmanship would be just a lot of talk without trained craftsmen to share that same dedication. In the European manner, Moser's apprenticeships are long and in his workshop is small. There's no department of quality control, each of the 10 employees is needed (and especially to pull a piece aside if it doesn't measure up). "There's an understanding here that we are all empowered to do the best that we can," says David Moser, Thomas' youngest son. From these high-minded goals—and Moser's determination to implement them—comes furniture that will be enjoyed by our children and their children's children. ■ On the following pages we go into the shop with David as he shows us how to build a bed frame.

1 Ready-to-be turned into furniture, 200,000 board feet of rough-sawn cherry is stacked in a climate-controlled warehouse. Before arriving here, each board is air-dried for 6 months to a 23 percent moisture content, then pegged into a kiln to drive its moisture down to a stable 6 percent.

2 By splashing naptha on these cherry boards being considered for the dresser top, David Moser can see what color the wood will be when finished and thus get the closest match possible. In a few minutes, the naptha evaporates, and the wood reverts to a pale pink.

3 All the boards pass through a planer to make their thickness identical and then are pushed over a planer to square and straighten the edges so that the surfaces will be accurate when the boards are glued together.



4 Using yellow wood glue and bar clamps spaced 12 inches apart, Moser turns three boards into one. After about 3 hours, the piece is undisturbed and the finished lines of sponged-on glue are wiped off by hand. The final step is to run through the riverine planer's 60 grit belt to eliminate any glue residue. It's the first of many sandings that every piece of wood receives.

5 Another bit, guided by a template, bins into a piece of red, covering the transitional "joints" for the dresser sides. They're covered with a "bit" of the dresser's front and back to make dovetail joints.

6 A partially assembled dresser highlights the intricate geometry of a half-blind dovetail joint, which can only be set when a dresser is opened. Once these joints are glued, they are as strong as they are beautiful.





7- The dresser's drawers hang from rails that also support the top. Glued half-lap joints resolve the problem of what to do where misalignment. Screws driven down through each joint finish the rails to the dresser's reverse tapered legs.

8- A frame made of ash and cherry separates the drawers. Each frame is held together with pegged mortises and tenons. The same sliding joints that timber framers use to build houses. He'll Glend drills the holes for the pegs.

9- Once the brick pegs are in place and glued, they're sliced off flush with the frame. A tight, pegged joint at one of the subtle signatures of fine handcrafted work.



build it yourself

Try your hand at making a bookcase with this step-by-step project at www.woodworkbooks.com

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN HEIRLOOM

As the host of *The New Yorker Workshop* for years, Tom Noxon has closely studied and built many fine replicas of antique furniture for his clients. Here are his recommendations for what to expect in a piece of top-notch furniture.

- Look for solid hardwood construction (wood fiberboard or MDF).
- Ensure that wood grain and color match properly.
- Classic furniture with wood-to-wood joints that are glued and peg-free.
- Avoid pieces covered with metal hardware, which tend to corrode and loosen. If the metal is used, make sure they're well hidden.

- Check that drawers slide in and out easily even when pulled with one hand.
- Make sure that the wide pieces of wood don't bow out and white gaps are not bottomed out—any warping indicates that the wood is not straight and well with the seasons. Otherwise, they will crack.
- Opt for a tough coat to repair finish such as oil or wax for a protective seal.



10- Most of the pieces in this dresser are cut square and straight with a table saw. But the curved stretchers between the legs of both ends have to be made with a band saw. It takes a practiced eye and a confident hand to cut a smooth curve on this assembly.

11- A profile sander with a 48-inch long belt sander out any unevenness left by the band saw.

12- David inspects the assembled stretcher design inspired by Japanese joinery. Screws hold the stretchers to the dresser legs, but their heads are buried in drilled recesses and covered with wood plugs so they'll be invisible.

13- After the case is assembled and given a final, 220-grit sanding, it's sprayed with two coats of lacquer (sanded at least to 120 degrees). The process takes three days to ensure that the edges won't warp. Then a coat of clear polyurethane (polyurethane and lacquer) is rubbed by hand over the all. Finally, the piece is buffed with a lamb's wool pad until the finish shines. At that moment, the old, weathered cherry dresser is gone. A new, beautiful one is born.





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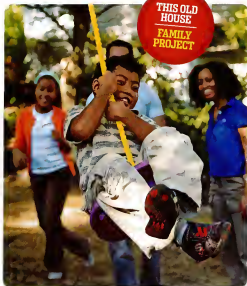
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THIS OLD HOUSE
FAMILY PROJECT

PROJECT - Building a Tree Swing

How to make an old-fashioned rope swing, with instructions for parents and kids
By Christine Fiedler Photographs by Wendell T. Webber

AGE RANGE > 6 and up
COST > \$45
TIME > 3 hours
DIFFICULTY > Fairly easy.
There are few parts, but cutting hardwood can be tricky, and hanging the swing is a job for an adult.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS INSIDE →



ALL KIDS WANT TO FLY, and every time they ride on a swing they get closer to that Peter Pan moment. But you don't need a whole playground to feel the spring breezes swoosh by. All you need is a seat, a rope, and a sturdy tree.

This swing is designed to be made from a single hardwood board and comes together quickly. Two pieces form one broad seat, and a third piece supports it from underneath. The whole assembly hangs from one rope attached to a strong tree limb.

Making the swing requires few tools, and all the hardware needed to hang it can be found at your local home center. In one morning, you can put the parts together, get the rope in place, and start your magic ride!

SAFETY FIRST

It's important to teach kids good workshop habits from the start. Here are a few guidelines for the tools used in this project.



HAND TOOLS

Using a square and a compass is a great way for kids to learn how to draw straight lines and perfect circles.



POWER TOOLS

While only adults should use a jigsaw, kids can use the drill/driver and the random-orbit sander if they use both hands.



GEAR

Keep sleeves (and fingers) away from blades and drill bits. Whenever the jigsaw is on, safety goggles are a must.

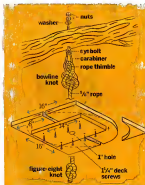
Project design by **Edward Petokar**

1

Lay out and cut the parts

> Using the measurements shown here or the handy full-size templates available at theoldhouse.com/family, measure out the three pieces of the swing on the 1x8 board: two 16-inch-long sections for the seat and one 14-inch-long support brace that goes underneath.

> Clamp the wood tightly to the worktable. Using a jigsaw guided by a square, cut the three pieces from the board.



TO PARENTS:

A jigsaw can send dust and splinters flying. Be sure you and your children wear safety glasses.



TOOLS YOU'LL NEED>

- Tape measure
- Combination square or framing square
- Spring clamps and bar clamps
- Jigsaw
- Drill/driver fitted with 1/8-inch drill bit, 1-inch spade bit, and long 5/16-inch spade bit
- Compass
- Random-orbit sander
- Paintbrushes
- Screwdriver
- Wrench

MATERIALS TO BUY>

- 1x8 oak, maple, or other hardwood board, 4 feet long
- 3/4-inch polypropylene rope
- 80-grit sandpaper
- Exterior-grade wood glue
- 1 1/4-inch deck screws
- Exterior latex paint
- Carabiner or spring clip
- 1/4-inch-thick, 10-inch-long eyebolt with washer and two nuts
- 3/4-inch rope thimble



MAKE IT EASY

Get expanded step-by-step instructions and download full-size templates for this and other family projects at theoldhouse.com/family



HEY KIDS!

This is a great way to learn about circles, squares, and diameters

2

Build the seat

> Put a thin bead of wood glue on the long edge of one 16-inch wood piece. Fit it side by side to the other 16-inch piece, then clamp the two tightly with bar clamps. This is your seat.

> Allow the glue to dry. Glue the 34-inch support board across the seam in the center of the seat bottom. Clamp the pieces together. Drill pilot holes through the support,

and use 1 1/4-inch screws to attach it to the seat.

> Flip the seat so it's faceup. Draw two diagonal lines from corner to corner. Put the point of a compass at the center of the X, then draw the largest circle that will fit on the seat. To make the flower shape shown in this project, set the compass to a smaller opening and draw semicircles on the big circle,

3

Cut out the seat

> Clamp the seat to the worktable. Using a drill/driver fitted with a 1-inch spade bit, drill a hole for the rope at the center of the X.

> Using a jigsaw, cut out the seat shape. You'll need to unclamp the seat and turn it around halfway through the cut.

> Use a random-orbit sander to smooth away splinters and round over any sharp edges.



Think About It

THE ONLY THING MORE VALUABLE THAN AN ENGINEER WITH VISION IS AN ENGINEER WITH CHILDREN.

While it's true our engineers were schooled in the world's leading design departments and engineering studios, perhaps their greatest qualification comes from an irrefutable knowledge of pacifiers and high chairs.

How else could the Hyundai Entourage be one of the safest minivans on the road today? Our engineers would never dream of building anything less than a car they'll trust for their own family.

They understand why side-impact airbags¹ and Electronic Stability Control² should come standard. They know how incredibly impor-

> CONTINUED at ThinkAboutIt.com



ONLINE BONUS Watch a video of building this swing—along with other family projects—at thisoldhouse.com/family

¹Side-impact airbags should always be worn. ²Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Traction Control System (TCS) are required by federal motor vehicle safety standards and are not a substitute for safe driving practices. ESC is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor America. All rights reserved. ©2009 Hyundai Motor America.



4

Paint your design

> Using an exterior-grade latex paint, brush the background color onto the seat. Coat the entire surface—top, bottom, and edges—to seal the wood. Allow the paint to dry.

> Draw the flower or other pattern on the background color. Use artist's brushes to fill in the design with more exterior paint.

5

Hang the swing

> Pick out a tree with a healthy limb that's parallel to the ground and at least 8 inches thick. Make sure there's room for the seat to swing freely. Using a long 5/8-inch spade bit, drill a hole vertically through the center of the limb. Thread the eyebolt in the hole, slip on a washer, and tighten it on with two nuts, one after the other.

> Tie one end of a long rope into a bowline knot around the thimble. Connect the thimble to the eyebolt with a spring clip. Slip the dangling end of the rope through the hole in the seat. Tie a figure-eight knot under the seat so it sits at a comfortable height for the kids. Now you're ready to fly!

TO PARENTS:

Be sure the tree limb you choose is alive and healthy, or it may break under the weight.



HEY KIDS! What are some other knots you can tie your rope into?

Paint a Picture

MAKE YOUR SWING SEAT SPECIAL

A circular seat is a great canvas for lots of different patterns and designs. Here are a few ideas for other ways to decorate your swing.



TARGET

Make believe you're an Olympic archer.



SUN

Spread a little sunshine in your backyard.



STEERING WHEEL

Pretend you're driving a big truck.



SMILEY FACE

A yellow happy face will put a smile on yours.



FLYING SAUCER

Head off on an adventure into space.



BASKETBALL

If you like to shoot hoops, this is the seat for you.



CLOCK FACE

Tell time using your legs as the clock's hands.

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Nothing says "I love you" like max airbags,¹ brake assist, and active front head restraints.

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WORKSHOP

TECHNIQUES, TIPS, AND YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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Many of our readers are looking for ways to improve their homes and gardens. In this section, we'll provide you with the information you need to get started. Whether you're looking for a new way to improve your home or garden, or you're looking for a new way to improve your home or garden, we'll provide you with the information you need to get started.

PHOTOGRAPH BY
MICHAEL J. PETERSON

The most dangerous animals in the forest don't live there.



AND YOU CAN PREVENT INADVERTENT
FIRE. VISIT www.epa.gov/forestfire



Ask This Old House

• NEED AN EXPERT? WE'VE GOT FIVE, READY TO ANSWER YOUR HOME QUESTIONS



Split Holly

A holly tree near our house has two main trunks. Can I cut one off, or should I cut the tree down? I don't want it to split and fall on the house.

THOMAS PRINCE, ALABAMA

Super Coolidge: I have never seen a holly tree split, but your tree is much bigger than the ones I'm familiar with, so maybe you're right to be concerned.

I wouldn't cut off one leader, though, because you'll end up with a lopsided tree. Instead, ask a local arborist to take a look. If there's a real risk of splitting, it might be worth the expense to tie the leaders together. If so, the cable should be connected to eyebolts drilled through the wood. Wrapping cables

This tall holly branches two trunks, or leaders, which may need to be rubber-banded together to prevent it from splitting. That's a job for an arborist.

around the leaders will eventually kill them. Whether or not you cable it, keep the top of the tree trimmed so it doesn't get much taller, and trim the limbs to keep them away from the house.

Concrete and Foam

The designer still is drawing up plans for our reinforced home seems to have resulting concrete forms. If they're so great, why don't we see more buildings using them?

JANARD KONE, FORTIN, FLORIDA

Kevin O'Connor replies: Most houses are built with standard concrete forms—ICFs—thats you might think. Once the sides are up and the drywall is up, it's hard to distinguish an ICF house from any other. One clue would be the unusually deep flutes around doors and windows. According to one study, ICF houses accounted for 6.5 percent of housing starts, or nearly 100,000 houses, in 2008.

Basically, the system uses expanded polystyrene—a dense, fire-resistant version of the stuff stuff that foam coffee cups are made of—as lightweight forms into which concrete is poured. But unlike other forms, the foam stays in place after the concrete sets, so the walls are highly energy efficient. Vern Nevill, technical service manager of the Insulating Concrete Form Association, tells me that a typical wall with 2½ inches of insulation on each side and

Q. WHAT IS IT?

- A. Example
- B. Concrete-insulating tool
- C. Rubber squeegee
- D. Or...



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DEER, ILLINOIS



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ASK THE EXPERTS

Show your air conditioner some love this spring. ♥

It's springtime again. It's a time of renewal. A time of fun. But springtime also brings an insect that no one likes to think about—spring cleaning. It's much more than just cleaning your house. It's also about cleaning your air conditioner for peak performance. Here are a few simple steps on how to do it.

Clear debris and plants from around your outdoor air conditioning so that airflow through the unit will not be hindered.

Turn off the water supply to your humidifier and turn the bypass dropper to the summer setting.

Have your air conditioning unit inspected for summer. This way you'll know if it's most efficient, which in the end will save you some money.

These are just a few ways to get your air conditioning in tip-top shape for the summer months. For more info, visit corner.com or call 1-800-CORNER to talk to a Corner expert.

Carrier

Turn to the Expert

WORKSHOP Ask This Old House



This house built in 1940 is a beautiful example of a Cape Cod style house. The only one in its neighborhood left standing after Hurricane Katrina.

6 inches of concrete whenever wall rate is less than 12. When it comes, the reason that "these houses are extremely tight because there's a continuous barrier against an infiltration." The concrete also adds mass, which helps insulate and outside temperature fluctuations, and it makes the walls strong enough to withstand hurricanes, fires, and floods.

Demolition? There aren't many, though remodeling can be a challenge, because you need special care to relocate a door or window or install wiring and plumbing. The biggest problem when finding a local builder familiar with ICFs, you don't want a spouse attempting such a job. Most's construction can provide the names of members near you, or you can get your local ready-made concrete company a call. If any builder around is using ICFs and hiring the specialized power crew is to place the concrete, they'll know a lot.

Post Protection

If plants sit several preservative treated posts in the ground to support a fence. I'd like to extend the life of the posts and also prevent preservatives such as arsenic from leaching into the soil. Should I paint the ground contact portions with an oil-based paint or with epoxy?

PHILIP SMITH, SOMERSETVILLE, PA.

Home Advisor replies: I wouldn't use either one. Painting won't extend the life of wood below grade, and the research the HomeAdvisor staff suggests isn't very effective as a wood

preservative either. Besides, you don't have to worry about arsenic leaching into the soil. That was a problem with lumber treated with CCA (a banned copper arsenic), but those products are no longer sold for residential use. The treated lumber available these days does not contain arsenic, and manufacturers claim that the arsenic does not leach into the soil. So I'd just sit the posts without treating the buried ends in any way.

Wall-Fixing Toilets

When my wife and I went to Germany we noticed that many residential toilets did not have a water tank. This seems like a great idea. Are there kinds of toilets available in the United States?

PETE HUGGINS, HICKORY, NC

Richard Rutherford replies: You didn't see a tank, but it was there, hidden inside the wall. These "concealed tank" or "concealed cistern" toilets aren't common here, but they're available, usually at a much higher price than toilets with visible tanks.

The concealed tank is thin, plastic, and supported by a metal frame that fits in the cavity of a 2-in. stud wall. The frame also supports the bowl, which does not sit on the floor. Flush water exits through a special fitting in the wall. There is no flush lever; instead, you push a button on a rectangular plate on the wall above the toilet. The plate can be recessed or across the toilet, but maintenance



to flush the toilet tank or a wall-hung toilet, push the button on this visible wall plate.

These toilets are quieter than those with exposed tanks, but the biggest advantage comes from having the bowl mounted on the wall. It takes up less space in the bathroom and makes it easy to hang the floor drains.

You'll also discover that these toilets are more complicated to install than regular floor-mount models. Having a plumber who knows how to put one in will be a big help.

Save the Bay?

We're remodeling our 1990s ranch and need to take out our bay window. I saw this window and would like to know if it's whether location. My husband says we should keep it. How difficult or expensive would rebuilding it be?

GINA HART, TRANQUILITY, IL



ONLINE FEATURE

Visit www.ashleyfranklin.com for more information on this feature.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 67

Home Advisor replies: I'm all for saving things during a remodel, but I'd have to agree with your husband in this case. It's probably not worth the effort to salvage the window.

Rebuilding a new bay window or an existing one is a big, complicated project, and, in my experience, removing a bay is even harder than putting in a new one. There's a chance it may not even cost a bit in price, anyway. And even if you did manage to save it, your relocated bay will still be a 1990s bay with old glazing and weatherstripping.

Perhaps there's some money in your remodeling budget for a new, energy-efficient bay that you can fall in love with. ♦

To send a question to Ask This Old House, go to thisoldhouse.com/askthetoph or write to:

Ask This Old House
123 Main Street
Boston, MA 02101

We have a complete online database of other similar Ask This Old House questions and answers, and may be able to help you with your question. Please note that the advice of our readers is not a substitute for professional consultation.

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This Old House
THE NEW ORLEANS PROJECT

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WORKSHOP

SHARPEN YOUR KNOW-HOW WITH THESE TIPS FOR DOING ANYTHING BETTER AROUND THE HOUSE

Skill Building



How to Hand-Cut a Brick

Score and split for a perfect fit

RELATED STORY: PUTTING A BRICK IN IT No matter what pattern you follow when installing a walkway or patio, you'll have to cut some bricks. You can do it with a circular saw or grinder fitted with a masonry blade, but it's less dusty otherwise. Follow these easy steps to split a brick by hand. The first is a cold chisel at least 1/2 inch wide, scored (cold chisel called a brick set at least 2 inches wide), and a brick hammer. Once you get the hang of it, each cut should take about 5 minutes. Just be sure to put on safety glasses and earplugs before you get started.

1. Mark your outline on each side of the brick using a pencil and a Speed Square.
2. Place the brick on the ground or a sand bed. Both will have some give that will dampen the hammer blows. Score the outline by tapping a cold-chisel point at about a 60-degree angle, striking about 1/4 inch with a full swing, working carefully up the brick and leave an uneven break. Afterward, the angle of the chisel from side to side until you're about 1/4 inch from the point at 90 degrees around the brick on every side.
3. Hold the brick at right to the score line. Place the left-hand edge against the scrap side of the cut, and then hit the blade of the chisel away from that side. Give it a solid blow with your hammer; the brick should split along the score.
4. Chip away any excess material with the chisel and a brick hammer.

—JENNIFER THOMPSON

TIPS As you swing the hammer, keep your eyes focused on the striking end of the chisel. If you're watching the chisel blade itself, you're more likely to hit your hand.

Installing an Exterior Sconce

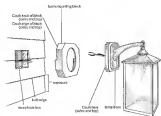
How to mount a light without twisting a neck

RELATED STORY: IT'S ENTRY-LEVEL

An exterior sconce should rest lightly against the wall without any gaps that might let moisture in. But it's not easy to get a wall that'll fit against siding with overlapping boards, such as vinyl, shingles, chipboard, and vinyl.

This wooden wall is full of gaps, so you'll have to cut a hole in the siding to make the profile of the over lip. The notches fit an angled the siding correctly as a guide piece—no cutting needed. These blocks fit over vinyl or wood siding with a 4- or 5-inch wide exposure and 1/2- or 3/4-inch thick, but if edges of your siding doesn't match these measurements, you'll need to make your own block.

Score the light's empty cavity around the top and sides of the block's back face, and press against the siding. Leave the leftmost cavity as a slot for wiring. But since it's not easy to push through the wires from the receptacle box, connect them before and then the light to the receptacle box in the wall. Finally, slide around the sides and top of the light base where it meets the block and the sides and top of the block where it meets the siding. —NANCY RODRIGUEZ



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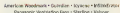
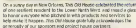


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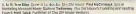
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Special thanks to everyone who joined The Old House as we kicked off the 2006 International Builders' Show in Orlando, FL with our second annual celebration of the House of Blues.

* MASTER CARPENTER NORM ANDRUS TECHNIQUES FOR THE ITEMS FEATURED IN TOOL BOX, P. 66

ESSENTIAL TOOLS

My On-the-Go Collection

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It's more common to find a car with a flat tire than a car with a flat tire, which is why I keep one in my trunk. It's a good idea to have a spare tire in your car. If you have a spare tire, you can change a flat tire. If you don't have a spare tire, you can't change a flat tire. If you have a spare tire, you can change a flat tire. If you don't have a spare tire, you can't change a flat tire.



Nonsticky Tape

One of my favorite go-to items is stretchy waterproof silicone tape (right), which bonds to itself but isn't sticky to the touch. It's great for sealing leaks or cracks in plumbing pipes or hoses until I can make a permanent repair. Shopped at Amazon.com. **It also makes an excellent no-silly-on-**



WORM'S TIP
WD-40 not only lubricates, it's also a great rust remover. Once a year, I'll spray and wipe it off the iron timber framing hardware in my house. Close the metal right up.

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LANDSCAPING
Easy-Care Trees (pp. 35-38)

For further information: Access for Dummies by
Lance Williams, Wiley Publishing, 2000

ON THE JOB
Water, Water Everywhere (pp. 48-49)
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Simply Shaker (pp. 45–46)

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doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0142126.g002

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212-680-5126, devoltsincdepot.com
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Lay a Brick Pathway (pp. 65)

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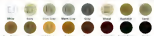
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SAVE⁺ this old house

PHOTO: BOGARD
LOCATION: UPR SPRINGS, ALABAMA
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THE FOMER FAMILY used to sleep upstairs in the small bungalow in Upr Springs, Alabama, back around the turn of the last century. Trains of industry in businesses such as banking, railroads, and cotton exports, successive generations of Kramers helped build the town's economic base, as well as some of its grandest houses. And this little yellow house is where it all began.

When Captain Joel Henry Kramer—born a poor Civil War veteran—moved here in 1869 with his family in tow, he built the house right in the center of town. Though it was constructed after the Civil War, its period front gables are left out of the Gothic Revival style made popular in these parts during the late antebellum period.

After the Kramers' tenure, here ended the five bedrooms home was converted briefly as a boarding house until the 1950s. It's been standing empty ever since. With a sturdy two-room rear addition that was built on in the 1920s, the house still retains the details that make it great in its day, including a wraparound porch with round columns, hand-painted blue walnut doors with their original hardware, 14-foot ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows.

The town of Upr Springs—population 1,600—is about 36 miles from Montgomery, the state capital. Keep in mind that the house will require new heating, plumbing, and wiring and electrical systems, as well as some roof patching over the front porch. But who knows? Once you're done, you might just enjoy the house's revitalization of settling down in town and creating not only a great home but also a small empire. —KATHY HOPKINS



An
endangered
house worth
saving



- (1) The wood panels under this window, sitting right in the window, are a fine example of the craftsmanship.
- (2) The house is located on a very busy highway defined by dozens of other houses built by the same family.
- (3) A painted and new window in the front living room.
- (4) The current staircase is made of wood. Several the original details about the main floor and floors are still gone.



If you're looking for a house that should be saved, look in the right, look for this old house, 1871 Mount Street, New York, NY 10012 or 800-238-8088



The Yellow House (1871) is a small, single-story house in the town of Upr Springs, Alabama. It is a fine example of the craftsmanship of the late antebellum period. The house is located on a very busy highway defined by dozens of other houses built by the same family. A painted and new window in the front living room. The current staircase is made of wood. Several the original details about the main floor and floors are still gone.



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